

1702
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A

TREATISE
ON
DOMESTIC PIGEONS;

COMPREHENDING

All the different Species known in England; describing the Perfections and Imperfections of each, agreeable to the Improvement and great Perfection they are at this Time arrived at; together with the Method of Building and Furnishing a Loft, Area, Trap, &c.

The Method of Breeding the most curious and valuable Sorts, as practised by the best Fanciers.

The Generation of Pigeons in general, with a Philosophical Description and Progress of the Egg.

With Observations and Remarks on their Diet.

The Disorders they are chiefly subject to, and the Method of Curing them as practised with Success.

The fraudulent Methods used in the Sale of bad Pigeons, clearly and fully demonstrated, &c. &c. &c.

Carefully compiled from the best Authors.

To which is added,

A most ample Description of that celebrated and beautiful Pigeon called THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

The whole calculated, as well for the Use of those Gentlemen who are Fanciers, as those who are utterly unacquainted with their Perfections and Properties, which are here set forth in the clearest Manner.

Illustrated with a Frontispiece, and Cuts elegantly and accurately engraved from Life by the most able and eminent Artists, under the immediate Inspection of very experienced Fanciers.

"Curiosity and a Fondness for Novelty are implanted by Providence in the
"Mind of Man, to make him observe and examine Things attentively;
"distinguish their various Productions, Form, and Structure; and admire
"their Beauties, Properties, and Use. Whilst he is doing this, he is
"improving his Judgment, performing his Duty, and making himself
"happy.
Baker's Nat. Hist.

L O N D O N:

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MDCC LXV.

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T HIS Treatise is entered at STATIONERS
HALL; and whoever presumes to print
the same will be prosecuted by the Proprietors.

Jos: Banks



The following

T R E A T I S E

Is Inscribed to

JOHN MAYOR, Esq;

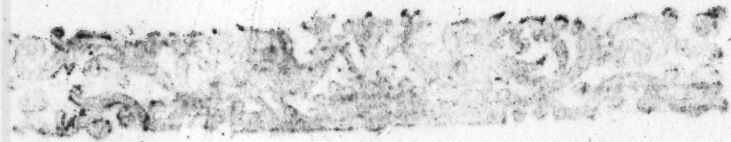
By his most Obedient

and humble Servant,

The Author.

®

ch
ions



following

THE

is intended to

JOHN MAYOR, Esq.

of the City of London

and Council of the

The Author

(v)

THE
PREFACE.

NATURAL history is one of the most pleasing studies a man can pursue; it daily affords us new objects for admiration; flowers, plants, animals, &c. all discover the workmanship and surprizing omnipotence of the great creator of all things; and nothing speaks the divine providence more than the birds of the air, if we consider the innumerable species from the eagle down to the humming bird; their different manner of building their nests, peculiar to every distinct kind, with the industry, dexterity, and precaution that reign through the whole: the

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swallow (says the author of Nature Display'd) makes a structure entirely different from all others; she wants neither wood, hay, nor bands, but knows how to make a kind of plaster, or cement, with which she erects a dwelling equally secure and convenient for herself and all her family: she has no vessels to receive the water she uses, nor a barrow to convey her sand, nor a shovel to mix her mortar, but raises her wings, and wets her breast on the surface of the river, after which she sheds the dew over the dust, and then tempers and works it up with her bill, with which she compleats her nest. Did we consider nature in general, or take a survey of her beauties in particular, thro' all her works, she is qualified both to please and instruct, because they are all full of harmony and contrivance.

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vance. All the bodies that surround us, the least as well as the largest, acquaint us with some truth; they have all a language in which they address themselves to us, and indeed to us alone. We learn something from their particular structure: their determination to a certain end, points out the intention of the creator: the relation they bear to each other, as well as to us, are so many distinct voices that call for our attention, and which, by the counsels they give us, replenish our lives with accommodations, our minds with truth, and our hearts with gratitude. In a word, we may say that nature is the most learned and complete of all books proper to cultivate our reason, since she comprehends at once the objects of every science, and never confines her instructions to any particular language or people. It

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It is from this book lying open to every eye, though very little consulted, that we propose to give an extract, with the view of making persons acquainted with, and to present to their observation, what inattention may have concealed from them.

Our intention in this extract, is to confine ourselves intirely to describe and set forth in a clear and intelligible light, the many and different species of PIGEONS, with the method of breeding them, &c.

Mr. Moore observes, in his Columbarium, that the history of birds in general has been given us by many hands, and in some parts in a very accurate manner ; yet the study of this genus of birds seems in a great measure to be neglected by most of our naturalists, who have given us but very short cursory descriptions of
some

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some of the species, in which notwithstanding they have been guilty of many great mistakes, and entirely left out many others in their lists. It is amazing to see so great an indolence, on this particular branch, spread itself in such an universal manner through all our ornithologists, especially considering the vast opportunities they have had, or might have had, to have given their readers the utmost satisfaction by the most exact and ample descriptions. It is notorious to all mankind, what vast numbers of these Birds, in all the species, have been, and are still kept in this kingdom, not only by persons in a lower rank of life, but even by persons of the greatest distinction, and the first degrees of quality, who have held these Birds in so great esteem, that they have endeavoured to attain
at

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at least an experimental knowledge of them, purchasing, at a very great expence, as many of the distinct sorts as they could hear of, and cultivating them in their own houses. Richard Atherton, Esq; of Atherton Hall in Lancashire, who was a gentleman both of will and ability to prosecute his fancy in this branch of natural history, was building a stately house in Lancashire, on the top of which he designed to have four turrets, in which his Pigeons were to be disposed according to the nearness of relation between the different species, but death put an end to the undertaking, to the immense grief of all those gentlemen of the fancy who had the honour of his acquaintance. He was a very compleat judge of a Pigeon, and would spare neither cost nor trouble to procure the best, and
had

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had a very choice collection of many kinds.

The same methods have been taken in most other countries, as well as Great Britain, to gain this experimental knowledge; as in Holland, France, Germany, Spain, Turkey, Persia, and Morocco. In the three last of which places, the monarchs themselves have officers called Keepers of the Pigeons. Thus we see how the knowledge of these Birds has been propagated and encouraged in most parts of the world at a very great expence, while every observer had still this natural history to obtain in the same experimental and costly way, and was often grossly imposed upon, by having a mixt strain put into his hands instead of the real species; yet notwithstanding all this, and the ease wherewith it might have been

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been accomplished, we find an almost profound silence among the naturalists upon this head.

The study of this genus of Birds, if properly attended to, is not beneath the greatest naturalist; for is it not an infinite reason that directs the labour of this and all other Birds when they build their nests? Who informs them that they should lay eggs, and that they would want nests to preserve and cherish them with a genial heat? Who has regulated their almanack, that they might not mistake the time, and prevent them from laying their eggs antecedent to the structure of their nests?

We all enjoy sight, and are conversant with the external part of nature. This view of it is for us, and in confining ourselves to it, we, in
every

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every part, sufficiently discover beauty, instruction, and truth. We are certain of the existence of objects; we see their form, we experience their goodness, we calculate their number, we behold their properties and relations, their tendencies and use. Here is an ample variety of instructive exercise for the mind, every new information is an additional pleasure. We see our riches increasing with our discoveries; and the view of so many benefactions must needs banish ingratitude and indifference from our hearts.

In regard to the model of this treatise, we do not offer it to the public as an entire new work, but have proceeded on the plan of Mr. Moore; have corrected some errors, and made many additions, with extracts from other authors. And as Mr. Moore's
essay

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essay is very deficient for want of cuts, to convey a just idea of the different species ; in order to supply that defect, we have procured engravings from the best hands, at a very great expence, in order to illustrate this work ; all which are done from life, and very masterly executed, under the inspection of the author, and other fanciers. It is to be observed that the species in general, and the almond tumbler in particular, are, from great care and expence in breeding them, arrived to so great a perfection, and so different from what they were twenty or thirty years past, that if a person who had been a fancier at that period, and had quitted the fancy, and not been conversant therein during the intermediate time, was to give his opinion now, he would be apt to condemn them, for no other reason

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reason, than because they are not like what used to be thought good when he was in the fancy before ; for instance, the powter was formerly bred with thin legs, and void of feathers on them, which by the present fanciers are in no esteem, and called by them, naked and wire-legg'd, who now endeavour to breed them with strong substantial limbs, and well feathered.

After all, we can assure our readers, we have strictly adhered to truth, (which is the first consideration in a work of this kind) however we may deviate in opinion from those who have formed a wrong judgment of the different species, by not having had an opportunity of being conversant with those that were really good, which always have, and always will bear a great price, and oftentimes
are

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are not to be purchased at any rate whatever.

We shall divide this treatise into two parts: the first explaining the method of keeping, breeding and preserving of Pigeons, &c. and in the second, describe the different sorts, clearing up obscurities, and rendering the knowledge and distinction of the several species intelligible to the meanest capacity, so that by comparing any Pigeon with the characteristics here advanced, they may be able to form a true judgment whether they are good, bad, or indifferent.

have formed a wrong judgment of the different species, by not having had an opportunity of conversing with those that were really good, which always have, and always will bear a great price, and sometimes

The method of building a Pigeon-loft
few people build a loft for that purpose
only it may be sufficient to observe that
the loft should be built on a high and airy
situation, and the front should be
facing the south or south-west.

T R E A T I S E
O N
P I G E O N S.

The Method of Building a Pigeon-Loft.



W H E N a person builds a loft
purposely for the use of pigeons,
he has an opportunity of fixing
the front of it as he pleases :
in such case the south, or south-west is to
be preferred, being the warmest ; but as
B few

2 *The method of building a Pigeon-loft.*

few people build a room for that purpose only, it may be sufficient to observe, that any place whatever may serve for that use, though some make a hole in the roof of the house, and there lay a platform according to the size they think proper, which any carpenter, used to that work, sufficiently understands; where proper care should be taken to fence off the cats, who are sworn enemies to Pigeons, and never fail making terrible havock among them whenever opportunity serves. And as fondlings are commonly unfortunate, so if you have any Pigeons that you value more than the others, they are commonly the first that fall a sacrifice.

Notwithstanding the cats are natural enemies to Pigeons, it is a very common thing to see one in most Pigeon-lofts, which are put in there when very young, and by proper methods being used with them, such as sometimes beating them with a dead Pigeon, and holding an egg made hot to their nose, which intimidates them from touching the eggs, &c. they naturally become afraid of them, and will never hurt

The method of building a Pigeon-loft. 3

hurt either the eggs or Pigeons, provided they are constantly supplied with food; and they are extremely necessary in a loft, by keeping it clear of rats and mice, which are full as destructive to the Pigeons as the cats, by sucking their eggs, killing the young ones, and even the old ones, &c. The loft, or room, should be sufficiently spacious to accommodate the number of Pigeons you propose to entertain, allowing each pair at least two holes, or breeding places, as they will sit the quieter for having the more room, and consequently will breed the better. Mr. Moore says he knew a gentleman who could not raise three young ones out of nine pairs of breeding Pigeons all the spring, and for above three months after, only by keeping them straitened in too narrow a compass; whereas about the latter end of August, or beginning of September, he moved them into a larger loft, and the same Pigeons bred well, even then, and through the most part of the winter. The reason of this inconvenience is very plain, for salacious

4 *The method of building a Pigeon-loft.*

cocks will often play to, and disturb the others as they fit; and others that want room to sit, will fight for nests, and by this means destroy both eggs and young ones. And here I would advise, to sift gravel on the floor and shelves, which the Pigeons love to pick, and is very good for them, and also makes your loft look neater, and easier kept clean; and by keeping them clean, you keep free from fleas, and other vermin, which are bred and nourished by the dung principally; for I can assure the reader, I never saw above two fleas in the space of twelve months, which I impute intirely to their being kept free from dung. You may erect shelves, of about twenty inches broad, for breeding places, allowing eighteen inches between shelf and shelf, that powters may not be under the necessity of stooping for want of height, for in that case they would contract an habit of playing low, which spoils their carriage. In these shelves partitions should be fixed at about three feet distance, making a blind, by a board nailed against the front on each
side

The method of building a Pigeon-loft. 5

side of every partition, which will make two nests in the extent of every three feet, and the Pigeons will not be liable to be disturbed, as they will then sit in private. Some fix a partition between each nest, which prevents the young ones from running to the hen sitting at the other end, and thereby cooling her eggs; for in breeding time, when the young ones are about a fortnight or three weeks old, the hen, if a good breeder, will lay again, and leave the care of the young ones to the cock. Others let them breed in partitions entirely open in front, for the greater convenience of cleaning out their nests. I find by experience, that nests made on the floor are much more convenient than otherwise, if the loft will admit of it, for it prevents the young ones falling out of their nests, which sometimes breaks a leg, and very often lames them; and also gives them a chance of being fed by other Pigeons, as well as their parents, which frequently happens. In every nest should be placed a straw basket, or earthen pan, that has

6 *The method of building a Pigeon-loft.*

not been glazed, which prevents the straw from slipping about, both which are made for this purpose, and the size must be in proportion to the Pigeons you breed : for instance, a pan, fit for a tumbler, or other small Pigeon, should be about three inches high, and eight inches over at the top, and sloping to the bottom like a wash-hand basin, and that in proportion for other larger Pigeons, remembering to put a brick close to the pan, that they may with greater safety get upon their eggs ; and by the means of this pan, the eggs are not only prevented from rolling out of the nest, but your young Pigeons from being handled when you chuse to look at them, which often puts them into a scouring. Some prefer the basket, as judging it warmest, and not so liable to crack the egg when first laid ; others the pan, as not so apt to harbour vermin, and being easier cleaned ; and say that the foregoing inconveniencies are easily remedied by putting in a sufficient quantity of clean straw, rubbed short and soft, or frail ; the frail is most valued,

The method of building a Pigeon-loft. 37

valued, because it lays hollow, and lasts a great while; the dung shaking off it, as occasion requires.

The trap is always built on a platform, or floor of deals, on the outside the house, that the Pigeons may have free access to it; and is formed of laths, nailed so close together, that the smallest Pigeon cannot get out; some make these very small, with three doors, one on each side, which all draw up together, by pulling a single string, (intending chiefly to catch stray Pigeons, whom they decoy into it, by strewing hemp seed, or rape and canary, which all Pigeons are very fond of) with places made at the sides, by fixing two strong wires to swing, whereby any Pigeon may enter the trap, but cannot escape back, and are called bolting wires; and a square hole left open on the top, called a tipping hole, if your trap be perfectly secure from the cats.

Others build them very wide and lofty: I have seen some near twenty yards long, and ten yards wide, with shelves on every side

8 *The method of building a Pigeon-loft.*

side, for the Pigeons to pitch upon, which supplies them with sufficient room and air, and keeps them in a good state of health, which are called areas, and chiefly used where Pigeons are not permitted to fly abroad.

To make a loft compleat, it should be furnished with proper meat-boxes, and bottles and stands for water.

The meat-box should be formed in the shape of a hopper, as a reservoir for their food, and cover'd over on the top, to prevent their dunging among the grain, which descends into a square shallow box, which some fence in with rails, or holes on each side, to keep the grain from being flirtd over on the ground, and mixing with the dung; and others leave it intirely open, that the young ones may the more readily find their way to it.

The water-bottle should be a large glass bottle with a long neck, holding four or five gallons, and its belly made in the form of an egg, to keep them from dunging on it; but the shape is not material, as a piece of paste-board, hung by a string

at

The method of building a Pigeon-loft. 9

at three or four inches above the bottle, will always prevent that, by hindering them from settling thereon. This bottle should be placed upon a stand, or three-footed stool, made hollow at top to receive the belly, and let the mouth into a small pan; the water by this means will gradually descend out of the mouth of the bottle as the Pigeons drink it, and be sweet and clean, and always stop when the surface of the water meets with the mouth of the bottle.

The reason of which is evident; for the belly of the bottle being entirely close at top, keeps off all the external pressure of the atmosphere, which pressing hard upon the surface of the water in the pan, which is contiguous to that in the bottle, is too potent for the small quantity of air which is conveyed into the belly of the bottle with the water, and which consequently, as being the lighter matter, rises to the top of the bottle, as it stands in its proper situation; but the water being sucked away by the Pigeons, that it no longer toucheth
the

10 *The method of building a Pigeon-loft.*

the mouth of the bottle, the confined air exerts its power, and causeth the water to descend till they become contiguous as before.

N. B. The kind of meat-box, bottle and stand, &c. may be seen in the frontispiece.



The



*The Method of Matching, or Pairing
of Pigeons.*

TH E loft being thus finished and equipped, we shall next shew how to match or pair the Pigeons: for notwithstanding they are very constant, when paired, to each other, seldom parting, except when either of them grow sick, or very old; yet 'tis difficult to make them pair to one's mind.

Therefore, to oblige them to this, there should be two coops erected, called by the fanciers matching-places, close together with a lath partition between them, that they may see each other; and should be so contrived, that they may both eat and drink out of the same vessels, feeding them often with hemp seed, which makes them falacious; and when you observe the hen to sweep her tail to the cock, as he plays in the other pen, which is termed shewing,
you

you may then put her in to him, and they will soon be matched.

But if, for want of this convenience, you are obliged, at first, to put them both into one coop, always put the cock in first for a few days, that he may be master of the place, especially if the hen be a virago, otherwise they will fight so much, as perhaps may settle in them an absolute aversion for ever after. But the cock, being master, will beat the hen, if refractory, into compliance.

They being thus matched, turn them loose into your loft, and suffer them to chuse the nest they like best; or if you chuse to fix them to any particular nest, it may be done by the following method: Make a lath machine the length of your breeding places, closed in at top and bottom with boards, and projecting out as far as your loft will conveniently allow: one of the top boards should lift up with hinges, in order to put in meat and water. This may be hanged before any hole, and put the Pigeons in it; and when they have been used to the nest five or six days, take
it

it away, in the night is the best time, and they will keep to that nest.

The same method may be used, and is a very good one, to prevent the strain being adulterated by a false tread, which an over salacious hen will frequently submit to; therefore keep them up by this method till the hen has laid both her eggs; then take it away, and give them their liberty, till the hen has fed off her soft meat; then the hen will begin to be salacious again; therefore at that time confine them as before, and you are sure to keep the strain pure and entire. This method, being troublesome, is not worth using but for the best Pigeons.





The Generation of Pigeons.

THE next thing we treat of is, the generation of this bird, or the method it makes use of for the propagation of its species; for which we are partly obliged to Dr. Harvey, in his treatise of the generation of animals; and partly to other authors.

All animals are distinguished into three sorts; oviparous, or such as are formed from an egg; viviparous, or such as are produced from the uterus alive and in perfection; and vermiparous, or such as are formed from a worm.

Though in fact the *foetus* of all kinds of animals is produced from an egg, the only reason therefore of this distinction is, that in some animals, this egg (if I may be allowed the phrase) is hatched, or brought to perfection in the uterus; where-

as all of the feathered kind emit or lay this egg, and produce their young from it by incubation.

The Pigeon is therefore an oviparous Bird; I call it a Bird, because all that belong to this genus feed their young ones for some considerable time after they are hatched; whereas the young ones of the fowl kind will search for their own food, and eat it themselves almost as soon as they are discharged from the shell of that egg in which they were produced.

We shall next give some account of the production of the egg, and then proceed to a description of it.

Nature produces in the ovary, or upper matrix of the hen, or female bird, a great cluster of small yolks, sticking together like a bunch of grapes, which from this similitude Dr. Harvey calls a vitellary, and adds, that in Pigeons, he has observed this cluster of eggs to be all of a like magnitude, excepting only two, which were larger than the rest, and were now ready to descend into the lower uterus or womb.

The

The cock, in the act of coition, impregnates these eggs, and by a surprising operation of nature, renders them prolific. The eggs of the smallest birds may be judged by that of the hen, where the parts are more apparent. We may easily distinguish the yolk that is in the heart of it; as likewise the first white substance that surrounds it; and a second white, in which the mass in the middle swims; besides these, we can see the ligaments that sustain the yolk towards the center of the egg, together with the membranes that enfold it, one yellow, another black; and a third and fourth that encompass the whole: and lastly, the shell that defends all the rest. What lies within these inclosures has the first formation; the shell makes the last appearance, and hardens from day to day: it is a fluxion of salts evacuated from the humours of the dam, and which the heat fixes and consolidates round the egg, to form a crust that has a double function: one is to put the mother into a condition of discharging the egg without crushing it; the second is to preserve

serve the young from all accidents till it be formed, and in a capacity to forsake the egg. We may even say that the egg performs to young birds the office of a breast and milk, with which the offspring of other animals are nourished, because the little chick that lies in the egg in the state of a nymph, and concealed under the skin of a worm, is first sustained with the white of the egg, and afterwards with the yolk, when the animal has gathered a little strength, and its parts begin to be fixed. Under this membrane that surrounds the yolk, is found a little cicatrice or white spot, which is only the seed where the worm resides. The egg, into which this little animal is injected, becomes prolific; but that wherein no such creature can be discovered, wants the seed, and contains only a barren nutriment. The females sometimes lay eggs without any congress with the male, but they never produce any thing. The little chick, under the form of a worm, is continually situated on the yolk, and always ascends to the top of that

side where the warmth of the dam attracts her. But as it would be quickly overthrown were the egg removed, and in such case would no longer be sensible of the heat that is so necessary to its welfare, the yolk is poised by two ligaments, which are always visible at the aperture of the egg, and fasten it on each side to the common membrane that is glewed to the shell: should one draw a line from one ligament to the other, it would not exactly pass through the middle of the yolk, but above the center, and would cut the yolk into two unequal parts; so that the smaller part of the egg is of necessity raised towards the belly of the Bird that performs the incubation; and the other part being more gross and weighty, always descends as near to the bottom as the bands will permit: by which means, should the egg be displaced, the young could not receive any injury; and whatever may happen, it enjoys a warmth that puts all about it in action, and by degrees compleats the disengagement of its parts. As it is incapable
of

of sliding down, it nourishes itself in ease, first with this liquid and delicate white, which is adapted to its condition, and afterwards with the yolk, which affords a more substantial food; and when its bill is hardened, and he begins to be uneasy at his confinement, he endeavours to break the shell, and does so in effect; after which he issues out with his belly covered with the yolk that nourishes him a little longer, till the parents themselves supply him.

It is the opinion of most, and that not without great probability, that all the eggs a hen will ever lay, are contained in this above-mentioned vitellary or cluster; and that as soon as this number is exhausted, she will become barren. Some people therefore, to abuse mankind, and vend an useless Bird, will oil the vent of a barren hen, and force an egg into it, to make you believe she is not barren. If you happen therefore to be thus imposed upon, that you may not lose the seasons of breeding, by keeping such a hen matched to a good cock, we shall give a method to prove

whether she be barren or not. When the cock drives her hard to nest, give her a pair of eggs, and let her hatch them and bring them up. Pursue this method for two or three pairs, if you value her; and, if she be not barren, this and cross-matching her, that is, pairing her to another cock, will effectually bring her to lay.

Pigeons, though they will make a great increase in a year, yet it is not from the number of eggs they lay at one time, for they lay but two, and then immediately proceed to incubation; but from the frequency of the repeated hatchings, which generally happen once in five or six weeks, according as they are good or bad breeders. When a Pigeon has laid her first egg, she rests one day between, and on the succeeding day lays her second: they generally stand over the first egg, which, if you please, you may call an improper incubation, till the next is laid, and then sit close, that both young ones may be hatched at once, or pretty nearly: though some

will sit close on the first, and by that means, hatch one young one two days before the other.

The time of a Pigeon's incubation, which trouble is equally divided between the cock and hen, except that the hen always sits all night, is nineteen or twenty days from the first egg, and seventeen or eighteen from the last; at which time you ought to observe whether the eggs are hatched or not, for two special reasons.

First, because the young ones, for want of a due heat, which often happens if the old ones don't sit close, may want strength to extricate themselves out of the shell, and so die in it for want of air and proper sustenance: whenever therefore an affair of this nature happens, if the egg be chip'd or crack'd with the force of the young one, break the shell all round with your nail, or the head of a pin, and you will find your account in it.

Secondly, if your Pigeons do not hatch, because their eggs are addle, or otherwise, you should give them a pair, or at least one

young one, to feed off their soft meat, which otherwise would be apt to make them sick, and they will lay again too soon, which weakens them much.

Having often mentioned soft meat, it may not be amiss to describe what it is.

Soft meat then is a kind of liquid pap, prepared as it were by instinct by the parents, by a dissolution of the hard grains in their craw, against the time of the foetus being first disclosed, when weak, naked, and helpless; this they throw up out of their craw, taking the beak of their young ones in their own, and by this means injecting it into theirs: with this meat they continue feeding them for six or seven days, when they begin to mix some harder food amongst it, till at length they feed them with all whole grain.

We shall conclude this head, with mentioning the dalliances made use of by this Bird before coition, they being in a manner endearing, and peculiar only to them.

The cock, when falacious, will, by a voice at that time peculiarly harmonious,
and

and by several pretty and engaging gestures, woo the female, and endeavour to incline her to his embraces: she, if consenting, will soon shew it by her motions, as sweeping her tail, spreading her wings, and nodding her head; from hence they proceed to billing, in which action the hen will put her beak into the cock's, who seems to feed her; after this she will squat, and readily receive his tread, by which she is rendered prolific: they will then seek out a nest, or convenient place, to deposit their eggs, into which they will carry such materials as they find proper for their use.

When a hen is near the time of her laying, her mate will pursue her from place to place, not suffering her to be quiet in any place but her nest, out of a peculiar instinct. I suppose, fearing his offspring should be lost by her dropping her egg in some place improper for incubation. And here it may be mentioned, that some cocks are so very hot, that they won't, at such time, scarcely suffer a hen to eat; and that will render her weak, and often make her

lay a thin-shell'd or imperfect egg. To prevent this inconvenience, the best way is to take the cock from her, till the egg be come to a greater perfection in the uterus.





Rules to distinguish a Cock from a Hen.

FIRST, The hen has generally a shorter breast-bone than the cock.

Secondly, Her vent, and the *os sacrum*, or bone near the vent, is more open than in the cock.

Thirdly, Her head and cheeks are thinner; and she does not look so bold as the cock.

Fourthly, Her *coo* is shorter, and not near so loud and masculine as the cock's; besides the cock frequently makes a half round in his playing, which the hen does not; though a merry rank hen will sometimes shew and play almost like a cock, and, if very falacious, will sometimes tread another Pigeon.

Fifthly and lastly, In young Pigeons, that which squeaks longest in the nest is generally

26 *Rules to distinguish a cock from a hen.*

generally reputed a hen; and where there are two in a nest, the largest is thought to be the cock.



Their

*Their Diet.*

IN the next place we treat of their diet, or the food proper for Pigeons. The Pigeon is a granivorous bird, and may be fed with various sorts of grains, as tares, horse beans, pease, wheat, barley, hemp-feed, or rape and canary ; of each of which in their order. Though the late grand duke of Tuscany, who was a very great Fancier, used to feed them with the stones of grapes, which in that country are very plentiful, and call them together by ringing a bell. Of all grains, tares are found to be most adapted to these Birds, and old tares are by much the best, for the new are very apt to set your Pigeons into a scouring, especially the young ones ; the same will likewise happen from old tares, if they have by any means been touched or immersed in salt or sea water : for though Pi-
geons

geons love salt, yet too much is very pernicious; for instance, if in a voyage you give them salt water instead of fresh, you will soon kill them.

Horfe-beans are the next food to tares, but you must take care to get them as small as possible. There is a sort which they call French ticks, which are good food, and somewhat cheaper than tares, but liable to two inconveniencies; First, they are much harder of digestion, and consequently, will not so readily make soft meat for the young ones. Secondly, your Pigeons are sometimes apt to be choaked with them, especially young ones, and such whose *oesophagus* or gullet is any ways inclinable to be small, as in most long-necked Pigeons it is. Mr. Moore says, I had a carrier the other day, which fell down off my house into the yard, and when it was taken up (I not being at home) it gaped, as I was informed, as if for want of breath, and died in a few minutes; it was very fat, and seemingly in good health: I opened it, to see if I could find any cause from within,

within, but all its internals seemed perfectly sound and in good order; at last, examining more strictly, I found a horse-bean, and that not a very large one, sticking in the lower part of the gullet, which, with some little difficulty, I pulled out; and this, I verily believe, was the only cause of its death.

Pease, wheat, and barley are apt to scour your Pigeons too much; therefore you ought to give them *very little*, if any, of this sort of food.

There is a sort of diet, called Scotch meat, which is *pease, beans*, and tares mixed together; some people feed their Pigeons with this, because cheap; but the beans are generally apt to be too large.

Hemp-seed, and rape and canary are food that Pigeons are very fond of, but by no means ought to be made their constant diet.

N. B. Even French tick beans are not proper for Dutch croppers, or any large crop'd.

crop'd Pigeons, because they are apt to make them gorge.





The Salt Cat.

BEING thus entered on the head of diet, it necessarily leads us to consider a certain useful composition called by the fanciers a salt cat, so named, I suppose, from a certain fabulous oral tradition of baking a cat, in the time of her salaciousness, with cummin-seed, and some other ingredients, as a decoy for your neighbour's Pigeons : this, though handed down by some authors as the only method for this purpose, is generally laughed at by the gentlemen of the fancy, and never practised.

The right salt cat therefore is, or ought to be, thus made : Take gravel or drift-sand, loam, such as the brick-makers use, and the rubbish of an old wall, or for want of this a less quantity of lime, let there be a gallon of each ; add to these a pound of cummin-seed, a handful of bay-salt or
salt-

salt-petre, and beat them up all together into a kind of mortar, mixing them with stale urine, and your Pigeons will take great delight in it.

The gravel or sand helps to scour their craws, and is of great service to digestion.

The loom being of an unctuous, oily nature, is a very great assistance to them in the discharge of their soft meat, or other meat, when they are feeding young ones.

The lime or rubbish helps to harden the shell of their egg; and you will find by experience, that when with egg they are prodigiously fond of lime, and will have it some way or other, if possible. By this means therefore you keep them from pecking the mortar off your own, or your neighbour's houses, though the damage from thence accruing cannot but be very trifling; for the whole length of their beak, and farther they cannot go, cannot reach far enough to loosen any tile that is naturally firm.

The salt and urine is a great provocative to drink; and this is no small service to your

your Pigeons, which are of a very hot nature.

The cummin-feed, which has a strong smell, in which Pigeons delight, will keep your own Pigeons at home, and allure others that are straying about, and at a loss where to fix upon a habitation.

The best way is to put your salt cat in jars, with holes in the sides for them to peck it out, and a cork at top to prevent their dunging on it, and to keep off the rain, or any other contingencies if exposed to the weather.



D

Distempers



Distempers of Pigeons.

WE come now to treat of the several distempers incident to birds of this kind, and to prescribe the various remedies generally made use of in their cure.

1. The first disease therefore that we shall take notice of is, the corruption of the egg in the uterus; this generally proceeds from an unmatched hen's being over salacious, by reason of high feeding, or some other cause, who will often without the coition of the male engender eggs, but seldom without his concurrence either perfect them, or bring them forth, so that they will corrupt in the womb; the only remedy for this is to put her to a cock in time.

2. The wet roop next falls under our consideration, and in this case, once in two or three days, give them three or four
pepper

pepper corns at most, and put a handful of green rue in their water; you may let all your Pigeons drink of it, for it is very healthful.

3. The dry roop, which you generally distinguish by a husky cough, and I am apt to believe proceeds from a cold, to which they are very liable, especially in molting time; to cure this, give them every day three or four cloves of garlick.

4. The next distemper that falls under our cognisance is, the canker, which proceeds mostly from the cocks fighting and pecking each other; though some people have assured me, that giving them water in a tin vessel, will likewise throw them into this disease. The method of cure is this; take burnt alom and honey, and rub the part affected every day, and it will cure it: but if this happens not to take effect, dissolve five grains of roman vitriol in half a spoonful of wine vinegar, add it to the former composition, and rub the part affected. Some people will take off the scurf and make it bleed, before they

apply the remedy; but I am apt to believe you will generally find it searching enough without.

5. If the wattles, or flesh round the eyes of the carrier, horseman, or barb, are peckt and torn, wash them first with stale urine for several days: if this does not do, dissolve two drams of alom in an ounce and a half of water, and wash the part grieved; but if the case be very stubborn, mix twenty grains of red precipitate with half an ounce of honey, anoint the part therewith, and it will certainly effect the cure.

6. Pigeons, especially in the summer season, are apt to be troubled with small insects, which the fancyers term lice; in this case, smoak their feathers well with the smoak of tobacco, and it will infallibly kill them.

7. There is another sort of small vermin which are very troublesome, and will often kill your young ones in the nest, by creeping into their ears, &c. especially when first hatcht, and always prevent their thriving;

ving; to hinder this, strew tobacco dust in the nest, and over your young Pigeons, and it will destroy these vermin, which are called Pigeons bugs by some, and by others the blacks.

8. Another disease to which they are subject is gizzard-fallen, that is, the gizzard falls down to the vent. The gentlemen of the fancy say it proceeds from weakness, though I rather believe it is caused by feeding with too much hemp-feed. I know no cure for this malady, unless nature herself works one, which it sometimes will in young Pigeons.

9. The next distemper is what the fancy calls navel-fallen; in this case, there is a kind of a bag hanging down near the vent. This malady is generally desperate; and if giving them clary, or some other strengthening things won't cure them, I know nothing that will.

10. Pigeons are liable to be pap-arsed, as the fancy call it. This distemper proceeds either from a natural innate weak-

ness, or from a cock's being too salacious, and treading his hen too often; I know no cure for it, except flying will do it. Young Pigeons and carriers are most subject to it, especially if not flown.

II. Some Pigeons, as croppers, and powters, are apt to gorge themselves; that is, when they have been too long from grain, they will eat so much that they cannot digest it; but it will lie and corrupt in the crop, and kill the Pigeon: If this therefore at any time happens, take the following method:

Put them in a strait stocking, with their feet downward, stroaking up the crop, that the bag which contains the meat may not hang down; then hang the stocking upon a nail, keeping them in this manner till they have digested their food, only not forgetting to give them now and then a little water, and it will often cure them; but when you take them out of the stocking, put them in an open basket or coop, giving them but a little meat at a time, or else they will be apt to gorge again.

If

If this does not effect the cure, you may slit the crop from the bottom with a pen-knife, or sharp pair of scissars, take out the corrupted meat, wash the crop, and then sew it up again. This method has been practised with some success, though the crop will not be so round as before.

Others will tie that part of the crop, in which the undigested meat lies, tight round with a string, and let it rot off. This method never fails, though it spoils the shape of the crop.

12. The next and most fatal distemper incident to this kind of birds is the vertigo, or (as generally styled by the fancy) the megrims; in this disease the Pigeon reverts or turns its head, in such a manner, that the beak will lie on its back, and will flutter and fly about at random. This distemper is usually reckoned incurable, and indeed it too often proves so; though I once had a turbit, of the owl kind, taken with it in a violent manner: some gentlemen seeing it, advised me to pull the head off; I told them I would first try if I could

not cure it, which they asserted to be impossible : however I took about a quarter of a pint of water, an ounce and a half of spirit of lavender, one drachm of spirit of sal armoniac distilled with quick lime ; these I mingled all together ; then I tasted it, and found it too strong for the bird, and therefore added a little more water ; I believe in three or four hours I poured down it's throat, at three or four times, a spoonful and a half of this mixture, for I had rather it should die, than live in that condition ; at last it began to discharge a white slimy substance upwards and downwards, but did not care to feed that day ; the next day I found it better, though still it would hold its head on one side, or awry : this medicine I gave it every third or fourth day, still lessening the quantity ; I gave it garlick the days betwixt, and sometimes two or three pepper corns, till perfectly recovered : I am not certain whether this Pigeon ever bred afterwards or not.

13. If your Pigeons do not molt off kindly, or stop in their molting, so that they don't throw their feathers well, it is a certain sign of an ill state of health: to remedy this, the following method will be of much use.

Pluck their tail-feathers out, and put them up in some warm place, allowing them a larger portion of hemp-seed with their ordinary food; a little saffron, or clary, steeped in their water, is likewise very beneficial: some will give them elder-berries or cochineal for this purpose.

14. Your Pigeons likewise, especially in molting-time, will be subject to scouring, which keeps them very poor, low, and out of flesh: to cure this give them pump-water with a lump of chalk in it; or put about the quantity of two horse-beans down their throats every day; if that don't effect the desired end, give them some smith's forge-water down their throats, which is very binding. A gentleman told me, that having been informed that gravel was good for his Pigeons, he gave them some of the
grit

grit that is left in the trough under a grindle stone where they ground edge-tools, and it bound them so much that it killed most of them; a little of this may therefore be good in case of scouring.

15. There is another distemper which is called the small-pox, in which there rise on their legs, wings and body, eruptions or pustules full of a yellow matter: some open them, and apply burnt alom and honey, or touch them with roman vitriol, and it will cure them.

16. When your Pigeons are sick, lowering, or hanging their wings, give them every day a spider or two, wrapt up in butter; and if you dare trust them let them fly.

17. Pigeons will be sometimes lame, and the ball of their foot swelled, either through cold, or the prick of a nail: in this case, spread some Venice turpentine on brown paper, apply it to the part, leave it there till well, which it will be in, a very few days.

18. The

18. The flesh-wen comes next under our consideration, which is no more but a fleshy tumor arising on the joints of the wings or legs: this may be either cut off or opened, and after having taken out the kernel, wash it with alom water.

19. The bone-wen is an ossificated tumor, arising upon the joints as before: this is seldom or never cured; and the Pigeon that is affected with it will never breed. Some pretend to cure it by a composition of quick lime and black soap; but if you make it too strong, or let it lie on too long, it will take off the leg, or other part it is applied to, for it is a caustick.

20. The last distemper I shall take notice of is a core, so called because it resembles the core of an apple; it is hard, and generally of a yellowish colour intermixed with red, and is usually found in the anus or vent. This, when ripe, may be forced or drawn out; and in order to ripen it and keep them loose, give your Pigeon so affected a purge of tobacco; a very small quantity is sufficient: I have known this
make

make them discharge the core themselves.
I once knew a Pigeon affected with this
sort of malady in the oesophagus, or
throat; some part was taken out, but the
Bird died.



Their



Their Usefulness,

HAVING thus instructed you how to breed, preserve, and cure your Pigeons, we shall next shew their usefulness in human life.

It is a bird well known to be much used by way of food ; and here I shall give you the remarks of one or two authors upon this head. Mr. Lemery in his treatise of foods, after having advised to the choice of young Pigeons that are tender, fleshy, and well fed, proceeds thus, “ They are
 “ nourishing, somewhat binding, strength-
 “ ening, and provoke urine : they are
 “ looked upon to be good for cleansing the
 “ reins, and to expel the gross matters
 “ that stick there.

“ As a Pigeon grows old, so proporti-
 “ onably does its flesh become dryer and
 “ more solid, harder of digestion, and so
 “ fit

“ fit to produce gross and melancholy humours ; and hence it is that some authors have condemned the use of Pigeons, and look upon them to be bad food.

“ They agree at all times with any age and constitution ; but those that are melancholy ought to make use of them more moderately than other persons.”

Dr. Salmon in his *Seplafium*, or *English Physician*, which I look upon as the best book he ever wrote, says, “ The flesh is not so easy of digestion as that of chickens. Authors say, that eating of their flesh is profitable against the plague, inasmuch, that they who make it their constant or ordinary food are seldom seized with pestilential distempers. Others commend it against the Palsy and Trembling. Others say, it is of great use and advantage to them that are dim-sighted. The flesh of young Pigeons is restorative, and of good use to cure such as are in consumptions, and to recruit the strength of such as are getting up, or newly recovered from some great sickness : it is
“ indeed

“ indeed savory and good food, and not
“ much inferior to the most esteemed.
“ The anus of a live Pigeon applied to
“ the biting of a serpent, viper, or rattle-
“ snake, draws away the poison, and cures
“ the sick, being renewed as often as the
“ Pigeon dies. Applied to the soles of
“ the feet in a fever, it draws away the
“ fever; and helps the megrims or head-
“ ach. Cut up alive and applied to the
“ place pained, eases the pain, and draws
“ away the malignity, if any be; for the
“ vital spirits yet remaining in the hot
“ flesh and blood, do insinuate themselves
“ through the pores of the skin into the
“ blood of the sick person, now dispirited
“ and ready to stagnate, enduing it with
“ new life and vigour. Potestates made
“ of the flesh, admirably cure consump-
“ tions, and restore wasted flesh.

“ The blood put warm into the eyes
“ allays pain, cures blear eyes, as also green
“ wounds.

“ R^x of the blood ʒij, honey ʒvj, white
“ sugar candy ʒij; grind them together till
“ they

“ they are well mixed, for the purposes
 “ aforesaid; as also against suffusions, blood-
 “ shots, and other distempers and weak-
 “ nesses of the eyes.

“ The coats of the stomach. *Rx* of them
 “ powdered ʒj, opium in fine powder 4
 “ grains, catechu in fine powder ʒij; mix
 “ them. Dose 12 or 13 grains every
 “ night at going to bed.

The doctor has left us in the dark what
 distemper this medicine is designed to cure;
 but I am apt to believe it is for a diarrhœa;
 yet I cannot see of what use the coats of
 Pigeons stomach can be, unless from their
 diuretick quality.

“ The feathers. *Rx* of the ashes of them
 “ ʒß, sanguis draconis, fine bole, sheep's
 “ blood dried, fine aloes ana ʒi; mix them.
 “ It stops bleeding in any part, being
 “ applied.





Their Dung.

HAVING thus shewn you something of the usefulness of this Bird, both in food and physick, I cannot omit saying something of its most excrementitious part.

The dung therefore of Pigeons challengeth the priority, not only of the dung of fowls, but of all other creatures whatsoever, on the account of its usefulness in human life.

Its benefit in agriculture is so well known to some farmers, that Plat gives an account of those that have fetched it sixteen miles, and given a load of coals in lieu of it : where he observes, that in the place it was fetched from it would have done more hurt than good ; whereas where it was carried, it did as much good as double the charges ; in the one soil it cured the barrenness,

E

whereas

whereas in the other it would have poisoned the fertility.

It is of a very hot nature, from the nitrous quality wherewith it is endued, and therefore it is very excellent soil for a cold, moist-natured ground. It is generally used for wheat and barley that lie afar off, and not easily to be helped. One load of it is worth ten loads of other dung, and will go as far in manuring of land: it is generally sown after the same manner as the grain, and harrowed in with it.

It is likewise extraordinary good soil for a hop-garden.

Tanners make use of it in tanning the upper leathers; and if you pick and sift it, will give you eight-pence a bushel for it, provided you send it home to their own houses: so that this article, and the young squabs, will nearly, if not quite, maintain your Pigeons in food, provided you buy it at the best hand, and take care to keep them clean.

Dr. Salmon, in his treatise before mentioned,

tioned, gives us the following account of its usefulness in medicine :

“ It is, says he, of common use in cataplasms, or plaisters which rubify and draw strongly. Beaten, sifted, and mixed with water-cress seeds, it is good against chronick diseases; such as the gout, megrim, vertigo, cephalæa, pains in the side, cholick, apoplexies, lethargies, &c.

After this he gives us several recipes, in which the dung of Pigeons is a main ingredient; as,

“ 1 R. Of the dung in powder ʒiiij, barley meal or flour ʒiij, vinegar q. f. mix them, to make a cataplasm against scrophulous and other like hard tumours.

“ 2 R. Of the powder of the dung ʒij, bears grease ʒiiij, pepper in powder ʒj, oil of cummin-seed ʒß; mix them for an ointment against baldness.

“ 3 R. Of the dung in powder ʒiiij, black soap ʒiij, oil of amber ʒj, mithridate ʒij; mix them for a cataplasm to ripen a plague sore.

E 2

“ 4 R.

“ 4 R. Of the powder of the dung 3j.
 “ powder of winter cherries 3ß, gromwell
 “ seed 3ij; mix them, and make a pow-
 “ der against the stone. Dose from 3ß
 “ to 3j.

This dung is used likewise in salt-petre beds, and is of very great advantage in the nourishing and production of it; and till the days of Oliver Cromwell, we had no salt-petre brought from abroad, but it was made at home from a mixture of Pigeons dung, fowls dung, hogs dung, fat earth, and lime, which with another ingredient, will form salt-petre, only it must be kept covered with a shed, to prevent or keep off the rain, that it may only mix with the nitrous quality of the air; and therefore, when this commodity is very dear, as it has often been, and may be again, the salt-petre men produce it after this manner to this very day, by throwing in the scum, or refuse of their salt-petre, amongst it.

Having shewn the various uses, even of the most disesteemed and excrementitious part, we shall conclude this head with the following

following story out of Tavernier, in the fourth book of his first volume of Persian travels, page 146. He says, speaking of the people of Ispahan, "As for their Pigeons, they fly wild about the country, but only some which they keep tame in the city, to decoy the rest, which is a sport the Persians use in hot weather as well as cold. Now in regard the Christians are not permitted to keep these Pigeons, some of the vulgar sort will turn Mahometans to have that liberty. There are above three thousand Pigeon-houses in Ispahan, for every man may build a pigeon-house upon his own farm, which yet is very rarely done. All the other pigeon-houses belong to the king, who draws a greater revenue from the dung than from the Pigeons; which dung, as they prepare it, serves to smook their melons."

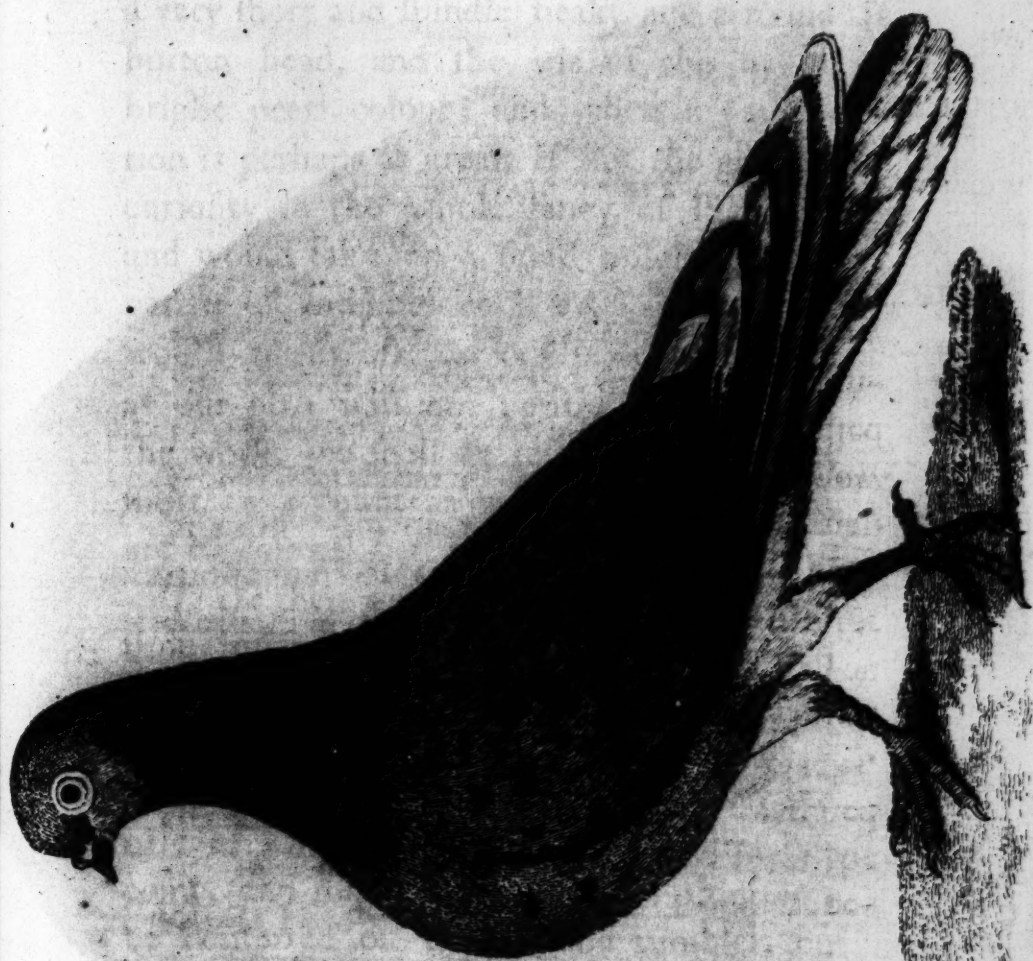
And now we proceed to describe the several species, beginning with the almond-tumbler.



The Almond Tumbler.

THIS beautiful and very valuable species were originally produced from the common tumblers, being properly matched so as to intermix the feather, viz. blacks, black-gristles, black-splash'd, yellows, whites, duns, &c. and are always attainable if you are endowed with patience sufficient for the tedious process, which requires a length of time; but should imagine no gentleman would take that trouble, as they can now be had without. They are commonly called and known by the name of almond tumblers; but why, or with what propriety they are so called, I acknowledge myself intirely at a loss to explain, nor could I ever find any person, even amongst the oldest fanciers, that could any way, with the least degree of reason, account for it.

It





It is a very small Pigeon, with a short body, short legs, a full chest, a thin neck, a very short and spindle beak, and a round button head, and the iris of the eye a bright pearl colour; and when in perfection is perhaps as great, if not the greatest curiosity in the whole fancy of Pigeons; and would take up a small volume to expatiate on and enter such a description as it would admit of, and really deserves; but as our plan will not permit us to extend the work, we shall therefore limit it to as short an account as we possibly can, so as not to conceal any material point.

These then are the sort that are at this time in such great esteem; and though former fanciers have given the name of king of Pigeons to the carrier, I am of opinion, (as well as many others) that the title of king of Pigeons would better become, and might, with greater propriety, be conferred on the almond tumbler, on account of its superior beauty, great worth, and scarcity; twenty guineas having been given for a lot of five pairs of them (within

these six months) and those very far from capital ones. They certainly exceed every other fancy in the feathered tribe, from that pleasing diversity in their plumage, though it must be confessed they labour under the greatest disadvantage in not having their perfections and properties properly understood by Pigeon fanciers in general, for it requires a very nice judgment to form any kind of true knowledge of them; and amongst the whole circle of my acquaintance, there are but very few that may be said to understand them: but to return; every time they moult their feathers, they increase in beauty for some years, and when in decline of life they as gradually decrease, till they become sometimes a mottled, splashed, or whole colour. I have had some so remarkably beautiful in feather, that their flight, tail, back and rump have resembled a bed of the finest and best broken tulips that can be imagined, or a piece of the best and most high polished tortoise-shell, for the more they are variegated, particularly in the flight
and

and tail, (provided the ground be yellow) the more they are esteemed; the preference being given to those of a rich bright yellow ground, it being a colour the most difficult to attain, for it is well known you may breed twenty light grounded ones for one deep ground, and the light grounded ones are, generally speaking, if not always, deficient in yellow, both in the flight and tail, which must of course reduce the value of the Bird; though a tail with good black in it must not be despised. The back, breast, and rump should be likewise variegated, to be compleat in feather, and not barr'd on the flight. I have had some in my collection that have had few feathers in them but what have contained the three colours that constitute the almond or ermine, viz. black, white, and yellow, variously and richly interspersed; and have conversed with many gentlemen of this fancy, who said, that after breeding them a considerable time, and rejecting those that ran from the feather, and judiciously matching the good coloured ones together,

(for

(for that requires some experience) have brought them to such great perfection, that they should have been surprized to have bred any other than almonds. Though 'tis certainly a good method sometimes to match a black-grizzle, or splashed, or a yellow, with an almond, to strengthen the colours, and thereby secure a good foundation. I have observed, that a black one bred from almonds, generally runs better in the head and beak than the almonds themselves, and the flight and tail are oftentimes tinged strongly with yellow. Such an one, matched to an almond, is most likely to breed a good Bird. They will frequently breed a buff, or pale yellow, which is very useful to match with such as are too deep in colour, or what is termed too high grounded; and the less blue or ash they are possessed of, the better, for sometimes a tinge of those colours will appear even when they have been staunch bred. There are likewise some that are called ash-coloured almonds; but such are held in no esteem.

In

In short, their beauty far surpasses all description, and nothing but the eye can convey a just idea of them.

* The powder was formerly much valued, as well as the carrier, and seemed at one time to engross the principal part of the fanciers ; but of late, numbers who were very staunch in the powder fancy, have, with myself, relinquished that, and become fond of the almond tumbler, and I make no doubt but many more will soon be tired, and follow our example ; for when we consider the trouble that attends the breeding and raising of young powders, (exclusive of the extra expence) compared with that of the almond tumbler, it is not in the least to be wondered at, for the powder requires an infinite deal of attendance, it being necessary to keep them separately all the winter season, that is to say, every single Bird, cocks as well as hens, in a separate pen or coop, each of which must

* The powder is introduced in this place, purposely to shew the difference of trouble, time, and inconvenience between breeding them and almond tumblers.

be

be furnished with meat and water, and should be lofty and spacious as before mentioned, otherwise they would contract an habit of stooping, which is an imperfection, and should by all means be prevented; then having (in the spring) matched or paired them, you must be provided with at least two pairs of dragons to every pair of powters, for nurses or feeders, † which must be kept in a separate loft from the powters, otherwise they would bastardize, and spoil their breed. When the powder has laid her egg, it must be shifted under a dragon, that has likewise laid nearly about the same time, and that of the dragon be placed under the powder, exchanging the one with the other, it being necessary the powder should have an egg or eggs to sit on, to prevent her laying again too soon, which would weaken, and in a short time kill her. Likewise the inconvenience attending them when gorged, by

† Powters are never suffered, by those who are curious, to hatch their own eggs, they being bad feeders, and would often starve their young ones.

putting

putting them in a stocking, (as mentioned under the head of distempers) if gorged with food; and if gorged with water, by squeezing it out of their crops, which frequently happens, especially among the large cropped ones, and sometimes occasions the loss of a valuable Bird, if proper care (and that in due time) be not taken. Again, should a fancier begin with half a dozen pair of powters, he would in a short time be under a necessity of purchasing more, or exchange (perhaps his best Birds) for worse, in order to cross the strain, for should he (as the term is) breed them in and in, which is matching father and daughter, or brother and sister, or any other way incestuously together, the breed would degenerate, and not be worth fixpence; whereas the same number of almond tumblers would inevitably stock him for life, for the breeding of tumblers in and in, would consequently breed them smaller, which is a perfection in them, and they require no attendance while breeding, provided you supply them with meat
and

and water, and throw them a little straw ; and do not (like the powter) require time to be lavished upon them, to make them familiar, † for the powter should be almost constantly attended, and talked to (during the winter season) in a phrase peculiar to that fancy, viz. hua, hua, stroaking them down the back, and clacking to them as to chickens, otherwise they would lose their familiarity, which is one of their greatest beauties, and is termed shewing, and would make the finest of them appear despicable ; which made a facetious gentleman of my acquaintance say, that powters were a fancy more particularly adapted to weavers, cobblers, and the like kind of trades only, that worked in the same room where they were kept, that the owners might have an opportunity of conversing with them, at the same time they were earning their subsistence. Though I must allow of the propriety of the above observation, I can't

† Experience teaches us, that were tumblers to be kept in separate pens as the powters are, they would shew in the same manner, and be equally as familiar, as the powter.

help thinking it rather severe than otherwise, for certainly every gentleman has an undoubted right to please himself with the fancy he most delights in.

The above, and many other inconveniences too tedious to mention attending the powder, and no trouble at all (comparatively speaking) attending the other, easily accounts for the preference given to the almond tumbler, the perfections and imperfections of which may be particularly seen at large in a kind of standard, calculated for the better judging of almond tumblers, lately published by some admirers of this fancy, elegantly engraved on copper-plate, at the top of which is an almond tumbler, very finely executed from life, the outlines being inimitably well performed, and by much the best I ever saw, and at so reasonable a price as six-pence, *

* The standard not being published with any view of pecuniary gain thereby, was the reason of its being fixed at the low price of six-pence, that the inferior fanciers might not be deprived of the knowledge of the perfections and imperfections, as settled therein, for they often breed good Birds, in order for sale.

which

which may be had I imagine at most of the print-shops in town; the intention of which was to enable the umpires to form a true judgment of the almond tumblers that are shewn for the prizes, at the Columbarian society. There was also a prize last season for black mottled tumblers, whose properties should agree with those of the almond tumbler, except the feather, which should be a black ground, the body mottled with white, with a black tail and flight; and when they are in perfection, they are an excessive pretty fancy, and very valuable. There is likewise another very pretty fancy, equal at least, if not superior to the black-mottled, viz. the yellow-mottled tumbler, whose properties likewise agree with the almond tumbler, except the feather, which should be a yellow ground, the body mottled with white, and a yellow flight and tail. Either of these two last mentioned fancies are extremely useful (provided they answer in their other properties) to intermix occasionally with the almond.

It may not be amiss before I conclude this head, to remark a distinction which the society of Columbarians make between Pigeon-fanciers and Pigeon-keepers, viz. Such gentlemen who keep good of the sort, whether they are almond, black-mottled, or yellow-mottled tumblers, carriers, powters, horsemen, dragoons, Leghorn, or Spanish runts, jacobines, barbs, turbits, owls, broad tail'd shakers, nuns, spots, trumpeters, &c. are stiled fanciers; on the contrary, those who keep trash are called Pigeon-keepers, of which last denomination there are a surprising number. It is prodigiously amazing and unaccountable, that any gentleman will bestow food upon such as are not in reality worth the tares they devour, and can be accounted for no other way than by supposing such gentlemen utterly unacquainted with the true properties and perfections of the several species they entertain, which it must be confessed is rather an harsh supposition, (except they breed for the spit only, and even then their table might be as amply

F

supplied

supplied by the better sort) the expence of keeping either being equal in every respect, the difference arising only in the purchase of one pair. Should any objection be made to the expence of the first purchase of the better sort, I answer it is infinitely cheaper to bestow four or five guineas on one pair of good Birds (which in a short time would sufficiently stock a loft, and repay the purchase with great interest, powters and Leghorn runts excepted, because, as before observed, they must not be bred in and in) than to begin with bad ones at eighteen pence a pair, the value of which can never be enhanced. I hope I need not here apologize, or be thought ill-natured by those gentlemen whose fancy may differ from mine, in giving my real sentiments and opinion so freely, as I have advanced nothing but matter of fact, and is the result of many years experience, having been possessed (I believe I may venture to say, without vanity, of as good, if not the best in England) of fancy Pigeons, besides toys of all kinds.

Having

The Almond Tumbler.

67

Having described the almond tumbler,
we shall next proceed to the common
tumblers.

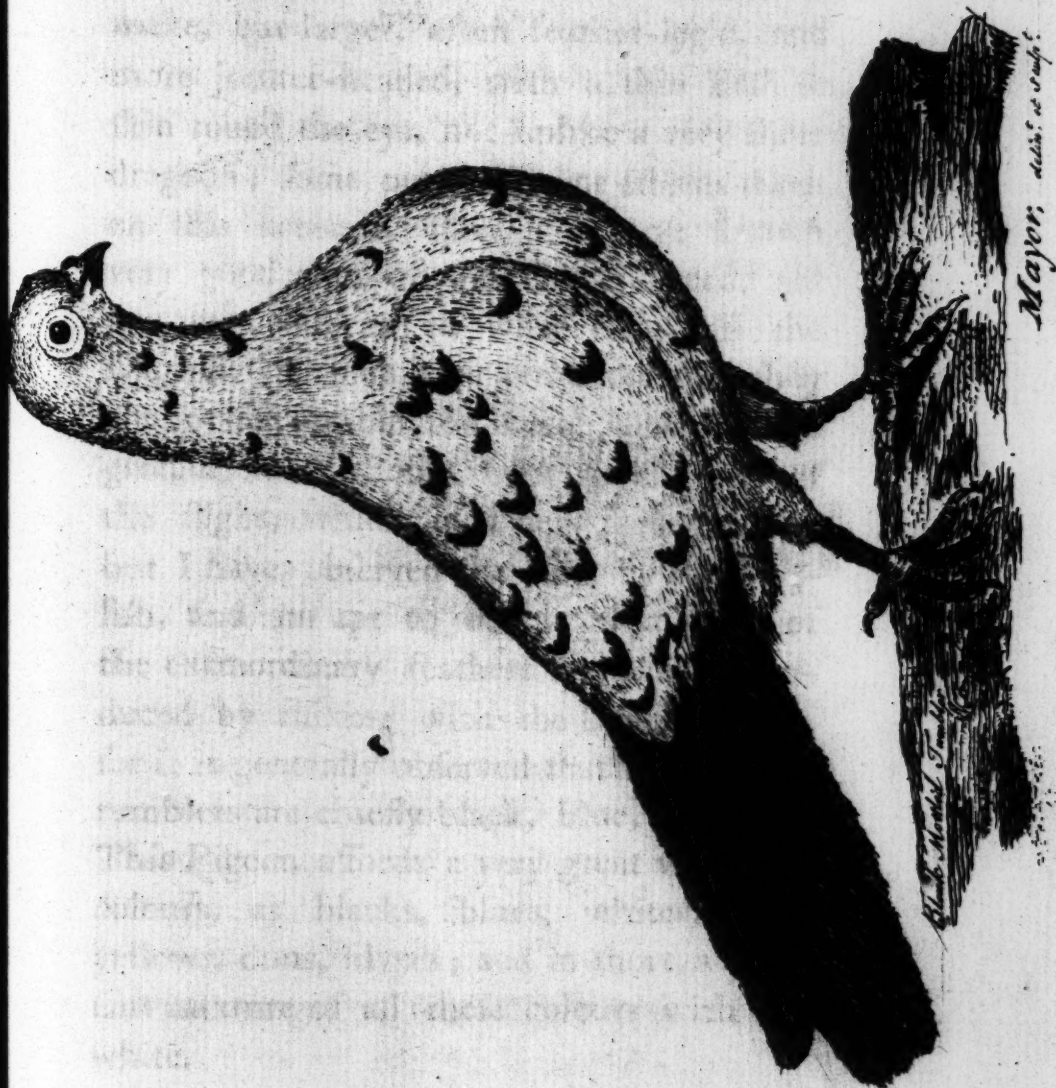




The Tumbler.

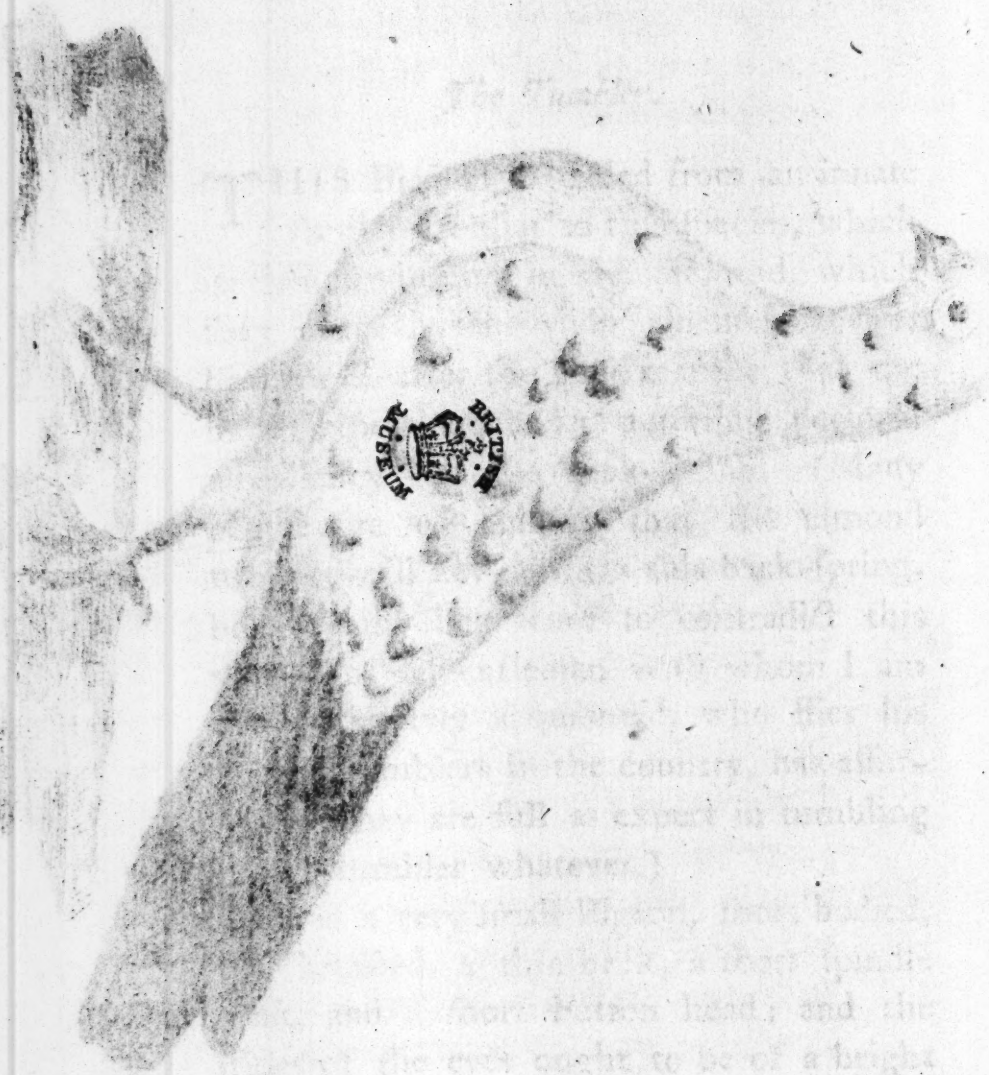
THIS Bird is so called from an innate faculty peculiar to this species, which is their tumbling in the air, and which they effect by throwing themselves over backward, after the same manner that the most expert artists in tumbling perform what they call the back-spring. (Many people are of opinion that the almond tumbler will not perform this back-spring, but I must beg leave to contradict this notion, as a gentleman with whom I am very intimately acquainted, who flies his almond tumblers in the country, has assured me they are full as expert in tumbling as any tumbler whatever.)

It is a very small Pigeon, short bodied, full breasted, a thin neck, a short spindle beak, and a short button head; and the irides of the eyes ought to be of a bright
pearl



Mayer: del. & sculp.

Black-headed Parrot



pearl colour: in short, if good, the almond tumbler and the common tumbler differ in nothing but the feather.

The Dutch tumbler is much of the same make, but larger, often feather-legged, and more joulter-headed, with a thin flesh or skin round the eye, not unlike a very sheer dragoon; some people do not esteem them on this account, though I have known very good ones of the Dutch breed, not any ways inferior to what they call the English. Others have remarked that they are apt to tumble too much, and to lose ground, that is, sink beneath the rest of the flight, which is a very great fault; but I have observed the same by the English, and am apt to believe that most of the extraordinary feathers have been produced by mixing with the Dutch breed; for it is generally observed that the English tumblers are chiefly black, blue, or white. This Pigeon affords a very great variety of colours, as blacks, blues, whites, reds, yellows, duns, silvers; and in short, a pleasant mixture of all these colours with the white.

By their flight they afford an admirable satisfaction to those gentlemen of the fancy that have time to attend them, and make their observations; for besides the pleasure that they afford by their tumbling, which is very considerable, they will rise to an immense height in the air, so that sometimes the eye can scarcely follow them. I have frequently lost sight of them, though they have been almost perpendicular over my head, and the day has been very clear and serene; yet by a fixed regard of the place where I lost them, (for they never ramble far like the horseman, and if good, when they are used to each other, a flight of a dozen will keep so close together, that to appearance you may cover them all with a large handkerchief) I have at length perceived them, but so small that they appeared no bigger than sparrows.

At this height they will keep two, three, four, and sometimes five hours together; nay, I have heard it frequently asserted, that there have been Pigeons of this breed which have flown nine or twelve hours; but

but I hope to be excused in thinking the gentlemen of the flying-fancy may have been deceived in point of time, when they have made those assertions; though I cannot absolutely contradict it. I remember to have heard an old fancier (not a mile from Long-acre) declare, that he once had a flight of tumblers that soared so prodigiously high, that (to use his own words) he could see them when they were out of sight, which undoubtedly appears rather paradoxical, but as miracles never cease, we shall suffer that to pass for one.

When they are up at their pitch, the better sort seldom or never tumble, chusing rather to afford you that diversion when they are more in sight. Tumbling very often at the first beginning to rise, and again when they are coming down to pitch.

We next proceed to the method of raising a flight of tumblers; and in the first place, they ought, if you have convenience, to be kept in a loft by themselves, not having any acquaintance, if possible,

with your other Pigeons; for if they are used to fly with others, it will make them sink their flight, when they observe others skimming in the air below them.

Secondly, They ought to be turned out, and put upon flight only once a day at most, and that by themselves, after being well acquainted with your house: the morning is the best time for this diversion, and after they are come down, throw them a little hemp-feed, or rape and canary, to entice them in, and so keep them confined till the next day.

Thirdly, If possible, get one or two that have been used to flying high, for they will train your young ones up the sooner.

Besides these things, the fanciers have observed particular seasons when a tumbler will make a more extravagant flight than ordinary; as for instance, when she sits upon eggs, and a few days after having fed off the soft meat. I cannot find any philosophical reason to be given for this, yet as it is confirmed by observation, I thought it worth taking notice of.

Another

Another time, when they will make a very extraordinary flight, is, when you observe ravens, crows, or any other birds wantonly playing at a great height in the air: this may be very easily accounted for, there being at such a time something in the temperament of the air, suitable to the genius of those birds that delight in the upper regions of the atmosphere.

Here I must advise the fancier not to turn out his tumblers when there appear any signs of a rising fog, for by this means the flight of their habitation is intercepted, and many a good flight lost for ever.

A high wind will likewise drive them too far from home, so that if they are not entirely lost, they may lie out all night, and by that means be exposed to the cats, or other various accidents.

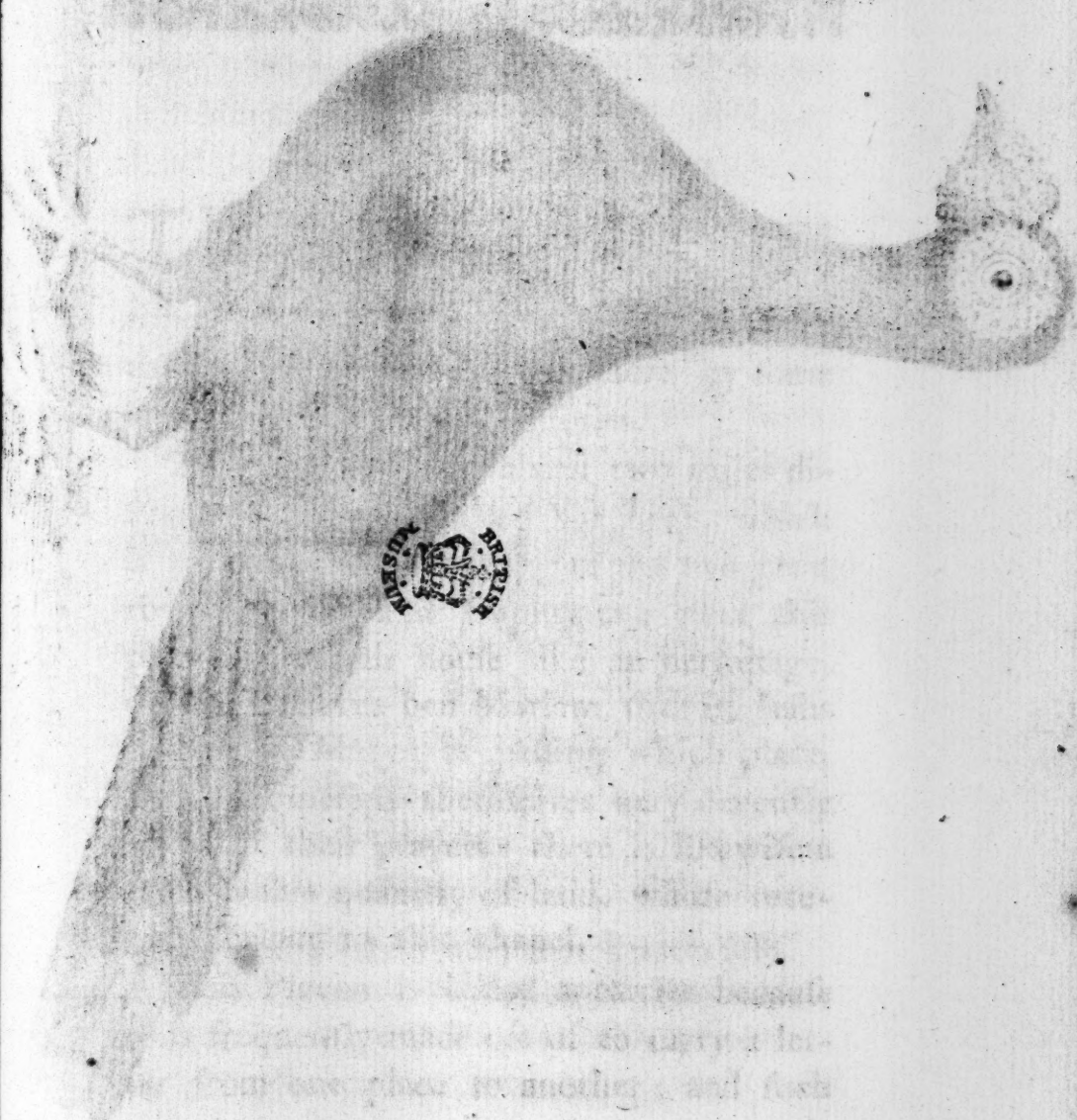
Lastly, Never turn out your hen tumbler when she is with egg, for besides that she is at that time sick, and unfit to fly, so likewise by her long flight, she may drop her egg, (an instance of which I have known) and so prevent the increase of your breed.

N. B.

N. B. The bald-pated tumblers, which are of various colours in their body, as blacks, blues, &c. with a clean white head, a pearl eye, white flight and white tail, are esteemed good flyers, and are very pretty, even when flying in the air, for the contrast of the feather appears at that distance when the weather is clear and fine; but the blue ones are reputed to rise higher than any other colour. There are also some called blue or black-bearded, that is, either of those colours having a long white spot from the under jaw and cheek, a little way down the throat, and regularly shaped, which has a pretty effect as an ornament; and if they run clean in the flight and tail, as before mentioned in the bald-pated ones, they are accounted handsome.

The next that comes under our consideration is the carrier.

The





The Carrier



The Carrier.

THE original of these Pigeons came from Bazora in Persia, being sometimes brought by sea, and sometimes in the caravans; and are therefore by some ignorant people called buffories.

This city is situate about two miles distant from a river called Xat Arab, which is formed by the meeting of the two great rivers Tygris and Euphrates: near this place is a small house like an hermitage, dedicated to Iza ben Mariam, that is, Jesus the son of Mary: in passing which place, the Mahometans themselves very devoutly offer up their prayers: there is likewise a considerable quantity of land, whose revenues belong to this chapel.

This Pigeon is called a carrier because it is frequently made use of to carry a letter from one place to another; and such

is

is the sagacity of this Bird, that though you carry them hood-winked twenty or thirty miles, nay, I have known them to be carried three-score or an hundred, and there turned loose, they will immediately hasten to the place where they were bred. The Dutch call this Pigeon Bagadat, probably from a corruption of the name of the city Bagdat, which was formerly old Babylon, which Nimrod built; because they judge this Pigeon in its way from Bazora to be brought through that city.

In Turkey they call them bagatins, or couriers; and the Turks and Persians make a common practice of breeding this sort of Pigeons in their seraglio's, where there is one, whose business it is to feed and train these Birds for the use afterwards designed, which is done in this manner; when a young one flies very hard at home, and is come to its full strength, they carry it in a basket, or otherwise, about half a mile from home, and there they turn it out; after this they carry it a mile, then two, four, eight, ten, twenty, &c. till at length

length they will return from the furthest parts of the kingdom. This practice is of admirable use ; for every Bashaw has generally a basket full of these Pigeons sent him from the grand seraglio ; and in case of any insurrection, or other emergent occasion, he braces a letter under the wings of a Pigeon, whereby its flight is not in the least incommoded, and immediately turns it loose ; but for fear of their being shot, or struck by a hawk, they generally dispatch five or six ; so that by this means, dispatches are sent in a more safe and speedy method than could possibly be otherwise contrived.

N. B. If a Pigeon be not practiced when young, the best of them will fly but very indifferently, and may very possibly be lost.

Lithgow, in his travels, gives the following remarkable account ; after having mentioned Pigeons that in forty eight hours would carry a letter from Babylon to Aleppo, which is thirty days journey, he proceeds thus, " The city Ptolemais was besieged

“ sieged by the French and Venetian armies, and was ready to fall into their hands, when the soldiers beheld a Pigeon flying over them to the city, who thereupon set up so sudden and so great a shout, that down fell the poor airy post with her letter, which being read, was found to contain, that the Sultan was coming towards them with an army sufficient to raise the siege, and would be with them in three days; the christians having learned this, sent away the Pigeon with another letter, to this effect; that they should see to their safety, for that the Sultan had such other important affairs, as rendered it impossible that he should come to their relief. Upon the reception of this letter the city was immediately surrendered to the Christians; upon the third day the Sultan arrived according to his promise, but perceiving how matters went, returned again with his army.”

That passage of making the Pigeon fall to the ground by the shout of the soldiers, seems

seems a little too much to favour of Romish superstition ; for it appears very unphilosophical, to imagine that the air could be so far broke by a shout, as to render the strong pinions of so swift a bird useless.

Ovid, likewise, in his metamorphoses, tells us, that Taurosthenes, by a Pigeon stained with purple, gave notice of his victory at the Olympic games, the very same day on which he gained it, to his father at Ægina.

Willoughby also in his ornithology, produces the example of the ancients in making use of Pigeons for the conveyance of letters : thus Hirtius and Brutus, at the siege of Modena, by means of Pigeons, held a mutual correspondence with each other.

We shall now proceed to the description of this Bird.

The carrier is larger in size than most of the common sorts of Pigeons ; and some of them measure, from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail, fifteen inches ; and weigh near twenty ounces.

Their

Their flesh is naturally firm; and their feathers close when they stand erect upon their legs; their necks being generally long, there appears great symmetry of shape beyond most other pigeons, which are generally crouded on heaps. The upper chap of the bill is half covered from the head, with a naked, white, tuberos, furfuraceous flesh, which projects, or hangs over both its sides on the upper part nearest the head, and ends in a point about the middle of the bill; this is called the wattle, and is sometimes joined by two small excrescences of the same kind on each side of the under chap.

This flesh is in some carriers more inclinable to a blackish colour, which is generally the more valued.

The eyes, whose iris, or circle round the black pupil is generally of the colour of a reddish gravel, but should be of a fiery red, are equally surrounded with the same sort of furfuraceous matter for about the breadth of a shilling; this is generally thin when it spreads wide, and is most

most valued ; yet when the flesh round the eye is thick and broad, it shews the carrier to be of a good blood that will breed very stout ones.

This Bird was formerly esteemed by the gentlemen of the fancy, as the king of Pigeons, on account of its great sagacity.

A carrier is generally reckoned to have twelve properties, viz.

Three in the beak,

Three in the wattle,

Three in the head,

Three in the eye.

To begin therefore with the first, the properties of the beak are to be long, strait, and thick.

As to its length, an inch and an half is reckoned a long beak ; though there are very good carriers who do not exceed an inch and quarter.

The straitness of the beak adds great beauty to its length, and if otherwise it is said to be hook-beaked, and is not so much esteemed.

The thickness of the beak is likewise

a very great commendation, and if it falls in this point it is said to be spindle-beaked, which diminishes something of its value.

The next three properties are those of the wattle, which ought to be broad across the beak; short from the head towards the apex, or point of the bill, and tilting forwards from the head; for if otherwise, it is said to be peg-wattled, which is very much disesteemed; and therefore some people, to impose upon the ignorant, and enhance the price of an indifferent Bird, have artificially raised the hinder part of the wattle, filled it up with cork, and wired it in with fine wire, in such manner as not to be easily perceptible, especially to gentlemen who are not adepts in the fancy.

We next consider the properties of the head, which are its length, its narrowness, and its flatness.

When a carrier has a long, narrow head, and a very flat skull, with a hollow impression or dent in the middle, it is much admired; and if otherwise, it is said to be barrel-headed.

The

The last three properties are those of the eye, which ought to be broad, round, and of an equal thickness; for if one part of the eye be thinner than the rest, it is said to be pinch-ey'd, which is deemed a very great imperfection; whereas if it has the contrary properties, it is said to have a rose-eye, which is very valuable.

To these some add the distance, which is between the hinder part of the wattle and the edge of the eye; but this cannot be allowed to be a property, for this reason; when a carrier comes to be three or four years old, if the eye is broad, and the wattle large, they must of necessity meet; the distance therefore seems to be rather a property of the horseman, of which more in its proper place.

Another distinguishing mark of a carrier is, the length and thinness of its neck, which some call a property; and indeed it must be allowed to add a very great beauty to this Bird, especially considering the breadth of its chest, and the broader the

cheest the better, for which reason the head should incline backward, which shews it more advantageously.

Its feather is chiefly black or dun, though there are likewise blues, whites, splash'd, and peds, of each feather; but the black and dun answer best the foregoing properties; yet the blues, and blue-peds are generally esteemed for their scarcity, though will not usually come up to the properties of the above-mentioned feathers.

But in my opinion, the above twelve properties would be better, and not so liable to be confus'd, if they were reduced to five properties, viz.

- 1st. The beak.
- 2d. The wattle.
- 3d. The head.
- 4th. The eye.
- 5th. Length and thinness of neck,
and length of body.

But as the gentlemen of that fancy have not yet taken upon them to fix a proper standard,

standard, as has been done for the almond tumbler and the powder, the above is submitted to their consideration.





The Horseman.

THIS Pigeon in shape and make very much resembles the carrier, only it is smaller in all its properties, viz. somewhat less in body, shorter in the neck, the protuberant flesh upon the beak smaller, as likewise that round the eye, so that there remains a larger space or distance between the wattle and the eye in this Pigeon, than in the carrier. They are generally more inclined to be barrel-headed, and their eye somewhat pinched.

It is to this day a matter of dispute, whether this be an original Pigeon, or whether it be not a bastard strain, bred between a carrier and a tumbler, or a carrier and a powder; and so bred over again from a carrier; and the oftner it is thus bred, the stouter the horseman becomes.

The

The only thing that seems inclinable to favour the opinion that they are original, is a strain of this kind brought over from Scanderoon, which will fly very great lengths, and very swift; but still the answer readily occurs, that they may be bred originally the same way at Scanderoon, and so transmitted to us; but that we cannot determine.

There are of this kind of all manner of feathers; but the blue and blue-pieds are most noted to be genuine and good; and if flown, are very good breeders.

These are the sorts of Pigeons that are chiefly made use of in England for the carriage of letters, or flying for wagers; because those that are possessed of the true original carriers, do not care to risque their being lost, upon every trifling wager.

These Pigeons, when regularly flown twice on a day, that is, turned out alone, and put upon wing, without any others, will fly very large circumferences; so that after they have made a tour or two round your house, they will fly four or five miles

out at length, and so maintain the circuit for an hour or two.

This the fanciers call going an end.

This practice is of admirable service to them when they come to be trained for the homing part.





The Dragoon.

THIS Pigeon is, beyond a doubt, a bastard strain, being bred originally from a horseman and a tumbler, and by matching their breed to the horseman, they will obtain a tolerable degree of stoutness.

They are very good breeders, and good nurses; and are chiefly kept as feeders for raising of powters, Leghorn runts, &c. and as they are somewhat less than a horseman, are reckoned lighter, and more expeditious in their flight for ten or twenty miles; but the horseman, if good, will generally out-do them at a greater length; they should be trained, and flown like the foregoing.

The following may be depended upon as fact, notwithstanding the appearance of incredibility, as several gentlemen now living can affirm the same if requisite:

A gentleman of my acquaintance, having a small wager depending, sent a dragoon by the stage coach to his friend at St. Edmond's-Bury, together with a note, desiring the Pigeon, two days after his arrival there, might be thrown up precisely when the town clock struck nine in the morning, which was accordingly executed, and the Pigeon arrived in London, and flew to the sign of the Bull Inn in Bishopsgate Street, into the loft, and was there shewn at half an hour past eleven o'clock the same morning on which he had been thrown up at St. Edmond's-Bury, having flown seventy two miles in two hours and an half; the wager was confirmed by a letter sent by the next post from the person at St. Edmond's-Bury.

I could relate several more exploits of this nature performed by dragoons; particularly of their being thrown up and returning home by moon-light, &c. but as the above may be thought sufficient, we shall proceed to describe the Dutch cropper.



The Dutch Cropper.

THIS Pigeon seems to have been originally bred in Holland, being naturally thick; and its name is derived from a large bag, or crop of wind, which they carry under their beak, and can at pleasure either raise or depress; they are short and thick-bodied; their legs are likewise short, thick, and feathered down to their feet; their crop is large, but always hangs low; the feathers on their thighs hang loose, whereby they are said to be flag-thigh'd; their legs stand wide, and they seldom play upright; they are gravel-ey'd, and generally very bad feeders; therefore as soon as they have fed off their soft meat, it is proper to put their young ones under a pair of small runts, dragoons, or powting horsemen, which may be kept as nurses for that purpose.

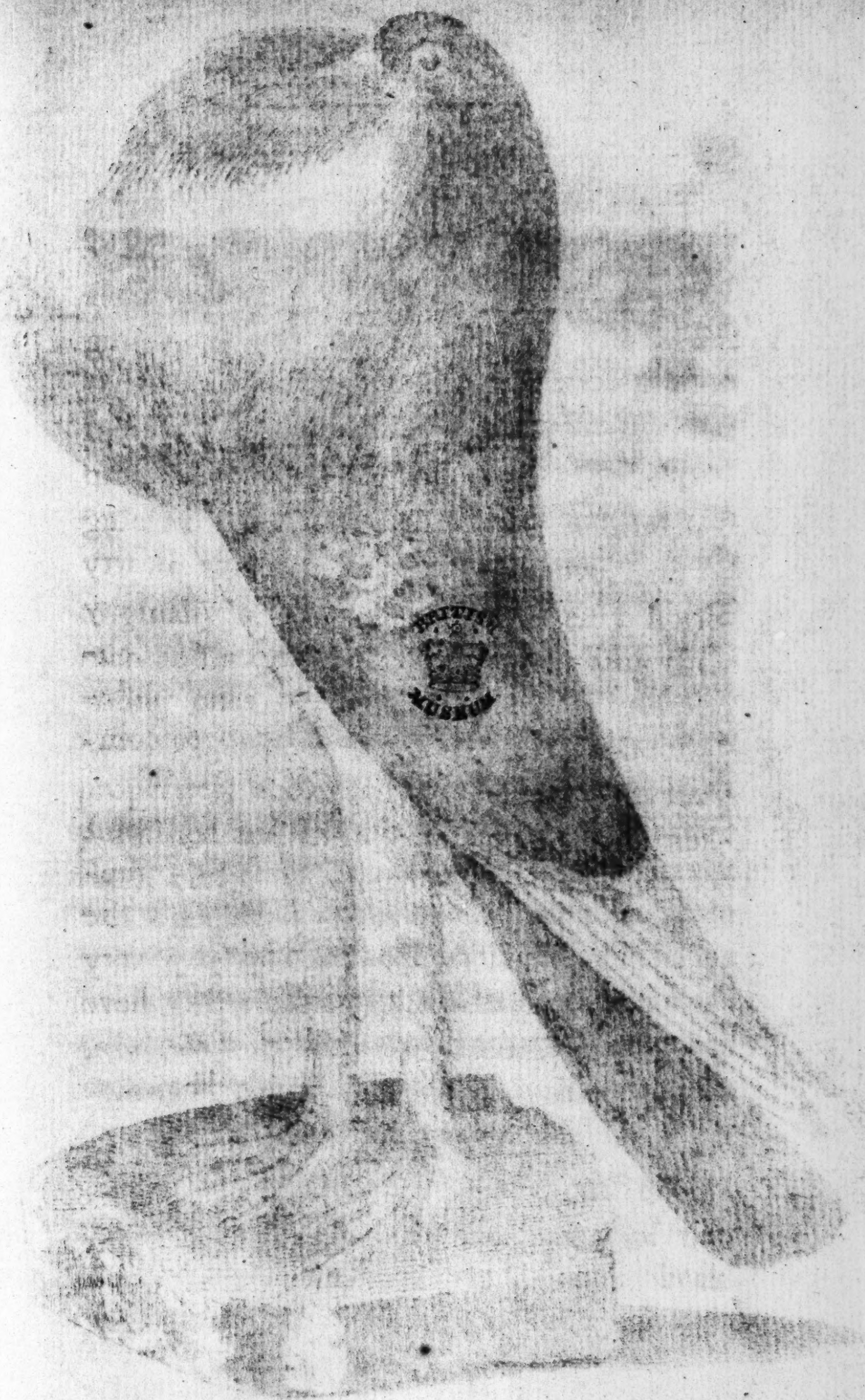
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There are of all sorts of feathers in this Pigeon ; and the Dutch in breeding it take a very great care ; for as soon as they have fed off their soft meat, they put the young ones under others to nurse, and then separate the old ones, placing them in different coops, and feeding them high with hemp or rape seed for a month, then turning them together, and by being very hearty and salacious, they breed Pigeons with very good properties ; from whence may be observed, that if mankind were alike abstemious, their progeny might be more compleat both in body and mind.

These are the Pigeons that are most apt to gorge, if not kept constantly supplied with meat and water : but now the gentlemen fanciers in England pay very little regard to this Pigeon since they have made it subservient to their purpose, viz. by raising from them and others the powder, which we shall next explain.



The







The English Powter.

THIS Bird being first bred in England, is therefore called as above, and is originally a mixt breed between a horseman and a cropper; and by matching their young ones over and over to the cropper, has produced in them the five following properties, according to the standard now published and in use among the columbarians, viz.

- 1st. Length and shape of body.
- 2d. Length of legs.
- 3d. Crop.
- 4th. Feather.
- 5th. Carriage.

1st. In regard to the length of body: the longer they are from the point of the beak

beak to the end of the tail, the more the Pigeon is esteemed; some have measured this way near twenty inches, though seventeen or eighteen is reckoned a very good length. It should have an hollow back, running off taper from the shoulders, to form a fine shape; (for if it rises on the back, it is called hog-back'd,) and it should be small in the girt. Great caution should be observed in measuring their length of body, lest the head and tail should be pulled off, which (if I am rightly informed) was once the case, and thereby a fine Bird sacrificed.

2d. The length of the leg is the next thing to be examined in a powter, that is, from the upper joint of the thigh to the end of the middle toe nail; and in this property some of them have been very considerable, wanting a meef trifle of seven inches and a quarter; yet the Bird that produces six inches and three quarters, or seven inches, must be allowed to be a very good one.

Their

Their thighs and legs should be stout and thick, and well covered with smooth white feathers, and not thin wire legs, and naked, as formerly: sometimes the joints of the knees will be edged round with another colour; but let it fall here, or on any other part of the thigh, it is called foul-thigh'd.

3d. The next property to be considered is the crop, which ought to be large and round, rising to the beak, filling well behind the neck to cover the shoulders, having the smallest part of the circle next the body.

4th. Is the feather, which affords a very great variety. The pids are most universally esteemed; and under these may be ranked the yellow pied, the red pied, the black pied, and the blue pied; which last mentioned colour should be the best sky blue, with black bars cross the wings, each of which advance in their worth according as they answer best to the other properties; for instance, if the blue pied and
black

black pied are equal in the measure of the other properties, the black pied will be reckoned the best Pigeon ; again, if the black pied and red pied are equal in the measure of the other properties, the red pied will be reckoned the best. Likewise if the red pied and yellow pied are equal in the measure of the other properties, the preference will be given to the yellow pied, on account of the feather.

5th and last property is the carriage. A powter should play upright, with a fine tail not awry, well spread like a fan, without tucking it between the legs, or setting the feathers upon the rump, (which is called rumping). He should lap his wings close to the body ; and display his limbs straight and close together, without straddling, and to move with a slow and majestic step, almost upon his toes, without kicking or jumping, which is the quality of the uploper. He should carry himself erect, with a round crop, well filled with wind, without being stiff-winded, or slack-winded,

winded, which are both esteemed very great faults *. The powter that buffles, which is being stiff-winded, fills his crop so full of wind, that it is thereby strained in such a manner, that he is ready to fall backward, because he cannot readily discharge the confined air, which renders him uneasy and unweildy; the other extream is being slack-winded, so that he shews little or no crop, and appears not much better than an ill-shaped runt.

These Pigeons appear very noble on the outside of an house; but the better sort are never suffered to fly, and it is happy for them they are not, for they would often fall down the chimneys, and easily become a prey to the cats, on account of their crops, especially those that buffle, or are stiff-winded.

* When powters are designed to be shewn, they should be previously prepared for that purpose, by keeping them from food five or six hours before the time of shewing them, otherwise they cannot so conveniently swell, or get their crop up properly, to appear to advantage. And particular care must be afterwards taken to prevent the dangerous and disagreeable inconvenience of gorging themselves, for at that time they are most apt to do it, from having been kept so long empty.

H

There

There are many who have not judgment sufficient to discover the beauties and properties of the powder, that condemn it on account of the crop, which they say seems an incumbrance to the Bird, and appears unnatural; so various are the opinions of the multitude! but that we may not run too much from the subject, we shall next proceed to describe in what manner a powder should be pided.

In the first place, the chop (by which is meant the front part of the crop) ought to be white, girt round with a shining green intermixed with the colour with which he is pided, and this white should by no means go behind the neck, for then it is said to be ring-headed.

2d. He ought to have a bib, or round patch of the same colour with which he is pided, coming down from his under chap, and falling upon the chop, which makes it the shape of an half moon; and if this bib be wanting, he is said to be swallow-throated:

3. His

3. His head, neck and back, ought to be of one uniform colour, and the tail the same; and if the Pigeon be blue pied, (as before observed) he should have two bars or streaks of black cross the lower part of both wings; but if these bars happen to be of a brown colour instead of black, he is then said to be kite-barr'd, which is not so valuable.

4th. The shoulder, or pinion of the wing, ought to be mottled with white, laying round in the shape of a rose; which is called a rose-pinion, and is reckoned the best. Though but very few arise to be compleat in this respect; but if the pinion runs with a large patch of white to the outer edge of the wing, he is then said to be lawn-sleev'd.

5th. The thigh is already described in their second property, viz. length of legs.

6th. The nine flight feathers of the wing ought to be white, otherwise it is called foul-flighted; and if only the external feather of the wing be of the same colour of

the body, it is called sword-flighted, or sworded.

A powter that would answer to all these properties, might very justly be deemed perfect: but as absolute perfection is incompatible with any thing in this world; that Pigeon which makes the nearest advances toward them, is most undoubtedly the best.

The fanciers of these Birds, by dint of application, indefatigable industry, and great expence, have certainly bred them to a great degree towards perfection, insomuch that eighteen pairs and an half of them were sold by public auction for ninety two pounds nine shillings and six pence, as appears by a paragraph in the Daily Advertiser of Thursday January 1, and the day following in the Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser of Friday January 2, 1761, which for the greater satisfaction of the reader, I shall here transcribe. " On
" monday evening last, at the sale of
" powting Pigeons, at Mr. Hays's, the
" French Horn in Beach-lane, consisting
" of

The English Powder.

101

“ of eighteen pair and a half of Pigeons,
 “ they were sold as follows :

		£.	s.	d.
“ Lot 1.	one pair	2	12	6
“ 2.	ditto - -	2	7	0
“ 3.	ditto - -	2	0	0
“ 4.	ditto - -	1	17	0
“ 5.	ditto - -	2	12	6
“ 6.	ditto - -	3	5	0
“ 7.	ditto - -	3	13	6
“ 8.	ditto - -	4	7	0
“ 9.	ditto - -	4	6	0
“ 10.	ditto - -	3	10	0
“ 11.	ditto - -	3	16	0
“ 12.	ditto - -	5	2	0
“ 13.	ditto - -	4	1	0
“ 14.	ditto - -	8	0	0
“ 15.	ditto - -	13	6	0
“ 16.	ditto - -	16	16	0
“ 17.	ditto - -	4	10	0
“ 18.	a hen only	5	5	0
“ 19.	one pair	1	3	0
Total - -		92	9	6

H 3

As

As I was present at the above sale, so I had an opportunity of examining the Birds, some of which were very indifferent ones, and some of them very capital ones indeed, viz. Lot 14, 15, 16, and 18; and to my knowledge, two pairs of which were afterwards sold for thirty six guineas by private contract.

N. B. The almond tumblers (at the time these Pigeons were sold) were not arrived to one half of the perfection that they are at this present time; and it is the opinion of many, that were the same number of almond tumblers to be sold now, they would bear a price equal, if not superior, to the above.





The Parisian Powter.

THIS Pigeon was originally bred at Paris, and from thence brought to Brussels, whence we had it transmitted to us: it has all the nature of the English powter, but generally runs long in the crop, and not very large; it is short-bodied, with short legs, and thick in the girt: what is chiefly admired in this Bird, is its feather, which is indeed very beautiful, and peculiar only to itself, resembling a fine piece of Irish stitch, being chequered with various colours in every feather, except the flight, which is white; the more red it has intermixed with the other colours the more valuable it is; some are gravel-ey'd, and some bull-ey'd; but is equally indifferent which eye it hath.

N. B. This Bird is vulgarly called the Parazene Powter.

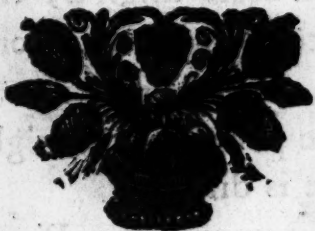
*The Uploper.*

THIS Bird was originally bred in Holland; it agrees in make and shape in every respect with the English powder, as bred formerly, except its being smaller in every property. Its crop is very round, in which it generally buries its bill; its legs are very small and slender, (which was the fault of the English powder till very lately) and its toes are short and close together, on which it treads so nicely, that when moving, you may put any thing under the ball of its foot: it is close-thigh'd, plays very upright, and when it approacheth the hen, generally leaps to her with its tail spread, which is the reason of its being called Uploper, from the Dutch word Uplopen, which signifies to leap up.

The colour of these Pigeons is generally all blue, white, or black; and there possibly

possibly may be some of them pied, though I never saw any.

There are very few of them now in England; the reason that they do not encourage the breed of them here, I should imagine, is, having brought the English powder to such perfection, that in fact, at this time, there is no comparison to be made between them: though it has been reported, that in Holland they have asked twenty five guineas for a single pair of uplopers, which I must confess I want faith to credit.





The Powting Horseman.

THIS Pigeon is a bastard breed, between the cropper and the horseman; and according to the number of times that their young ones are bred over from the cropper, they are called first, second, or third bred; and the oftener they are bred over, the larger their crop proves. The reason of breeding these Pigeons were, formerly, to improve the strain of the powters, by making them close-thigh'd; though it was apt to make them rump, from the horseman's blood, but having now brought the strain of the powters to so high perfection, that practice is disused.

They are a very merry Pigeon upon an house; and by often dashing off, are exceeding good to pitch stray Pigeons that are at a loss to find their own home, which gives great satisfaction to those gentlemen who

who delight in the flying fancy. They breed often, and are good nurses, generally feeding their young ones well. Some of these Pigeons are six inches, and six inches and an half in legs; they are a hearty Bird, and give them but meat and water, they need very little other attendance.

Some of them will come home ten or twenty miles.





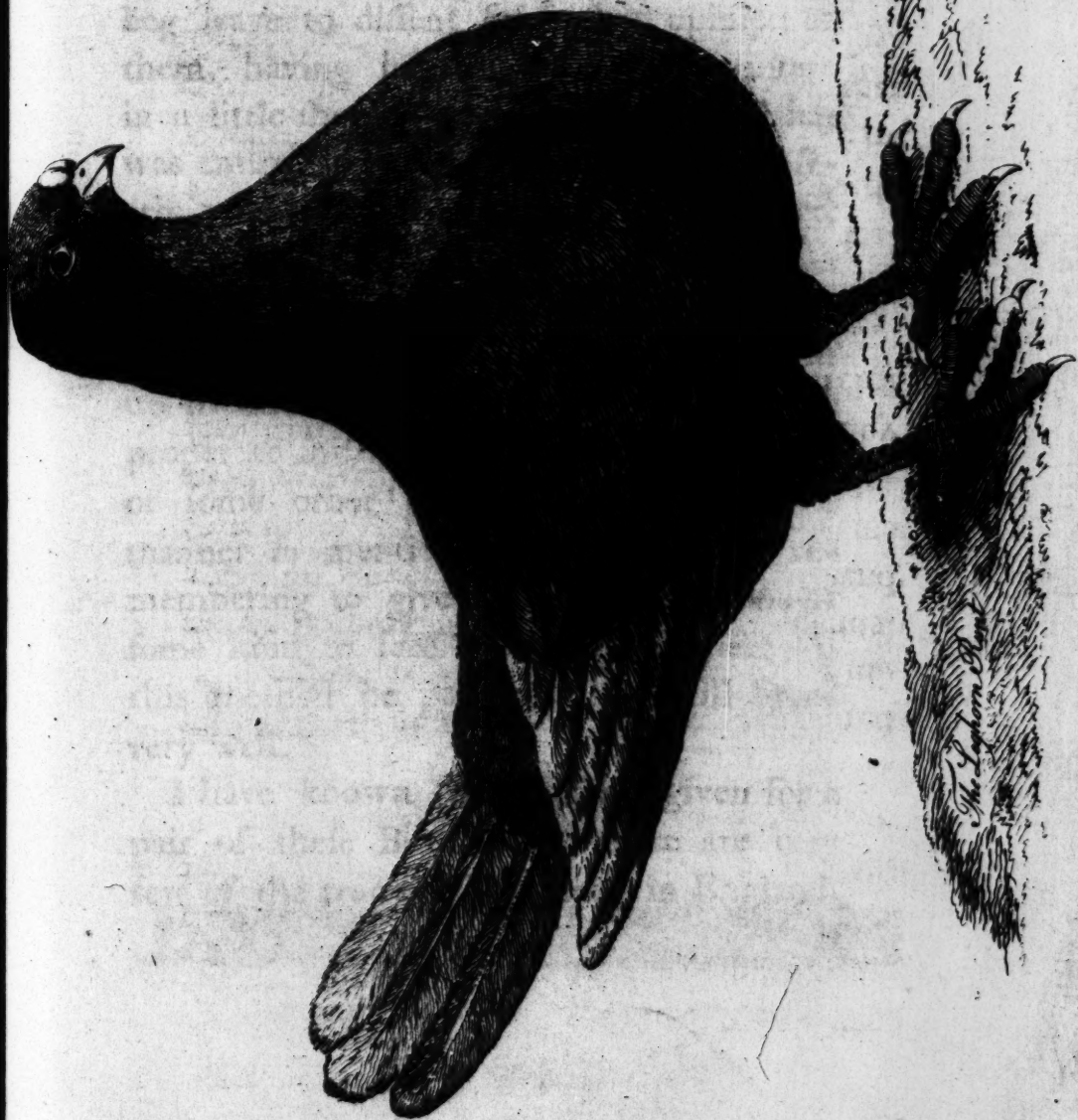
The Leghorn Runt.

THE Leghorn runt was originally bred either at Pisa, in the duke of Tuscany's dominions, or at Pisa in Peloponesus, and from thence brought to Leghorn, and so transmitted hither; but the latter seems most probable, because it answers the description of the Pigeon which Willoughby in his Ornithology calls *Columba Turcica* seu *Perfica*, the Turkish or Persian Pigeon.

It is a stately large Pigeon, some of them seven inches, or better, in legs, close feathered, and firm in flesh, extremely broad-chested, and very short in the back; he carries his tail, when he walks, somewhat turned up like a duck's; but when he plays he tucks it down; his neck is longer than any other Pigeon's, which he carries bending like a goose or a swan. He is goose-headed, and his eye lies hollow in his head, with

The Leguian Hawk

with a thin skin round its neck, and its
beak is very short for its large size. It has a
small wattle on its neck, and its wings are
bent over its back. Its legs are very strong, and
it is a very good climber. It is a little
more than a foot long, and its wings are
about six inches long.

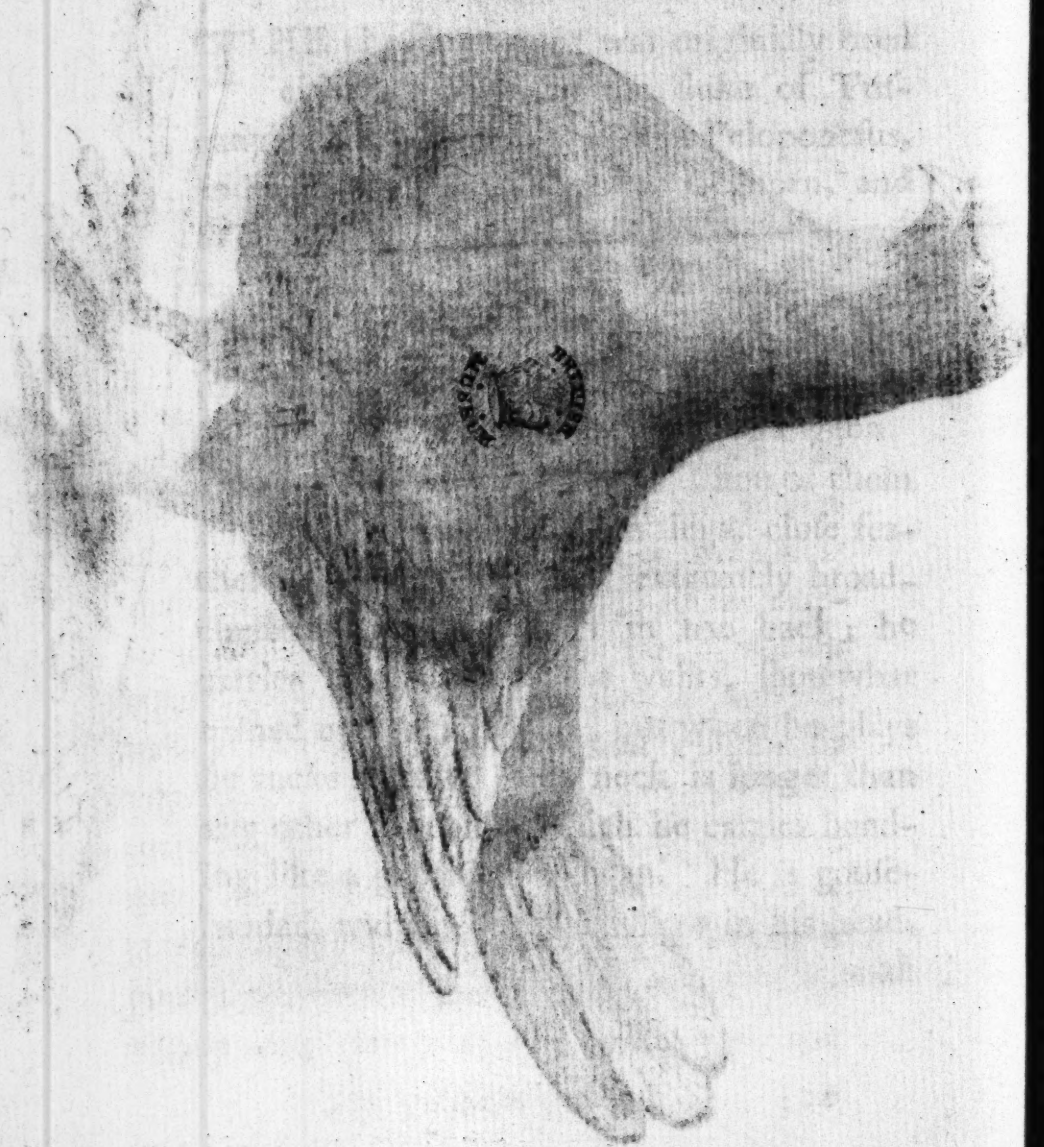


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[100]

THE LEXINGTON RIVER

The Lexington River



with a thin skin round it much like the Dutch tumbler's, but broader; his beak is very short for so large a Bird, with a small wattle on it, and the upper chap a little bending over the under. Mr. Moore says they are a very tender Bird, but I must beg leave to dissent from that opinion of them, having kept them several winters in a little shed or room, one side of which was entirely open, and exposed to the easterly winds, with no other fence but a net, which kept them confined. Care should be taken of their young ones, for they rear but few in the season if left to bring them up themselves, therefore it would be most proper to shift their eggs under a dragoon, or some other good nurse, in the same manner as mentioned of the powder, remembering to give them a young one of some kind to feed off their soft meat; if this method be pursued, they will breed very well.

I have known four guineas given for a pair of these Birds. But there are very few of the true original breed in England.

If

If they are matched to a Spanish runt, they will breed a very large Pigeon, closer in flesh and feather than the Spanish runt, and will breed much faster. I have had a hen of the Leghorn breed that weighed two pounds two ounces avoirdupois weight; and have killed of their young ones, which, when on the spit, were as large as middling spring fowls. It should here be observed, that these, and all other runts, encrease in bulk, till they are three or four years old.

As to their feather, they are various, but the best that I have seen, were either white, black, or red mottled. Leghorn runts are more valued than any other sort of runts, though there is a vast difference in them; some of them being very bad ones, though brought from Leghorn.

It is said that some kind to feed off their lost meat; this method be pursued, they will breed very well.

I have known a pair of these Leghorn runts given for a pair of these Leghorn runts, there are very few of the true original breed in England.





The Spanish Runt.

THIS Pigeon, as may easily be perceived by its name, comes originally from Spain; and is the longest in body of any Pigeon whatever; some of them are twenty three inches long from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail; they are thick and short-legg'd, loose feathered, and loose in flesh, and do not walk erect as the Leghorn runt does.

There are various feathers in this Bird; but being short-legg'd, are apt to sit too heavy upon their eggs, and by that means break them; to prevent which, the same method should be pursued with them as with the Leghorn runt. There are some Pigeons very much resembling the Spanish runt, with longer legs; but it is thought they come from the Spanish West Indies.

The



The Friesland Runt.

THIS Pigeon comes from Friesland, and is one of the larger sort of middle sized runts; its feathers stand all reverted, and if it is admired at all, it must be for its ugliness; there are few of this species in England at present.

There are other sort of runts; as the Roman runt, which is so big and heavy it can hardly fly; and the Smyrna runt, which is middle-siz'd, and feather-footed, even so as to appear almost like wings at the feet, which makes them frequently drag their eggs and young ones out of the nest, if not kept clean and dry. To these may be added the common runt, which are kept purposely for the dish, and generally in locker-holes in inn yards, or other places, and are well known to every body.

The following sorts of Pigeons are generally deemed and called Toys by the gentlemen

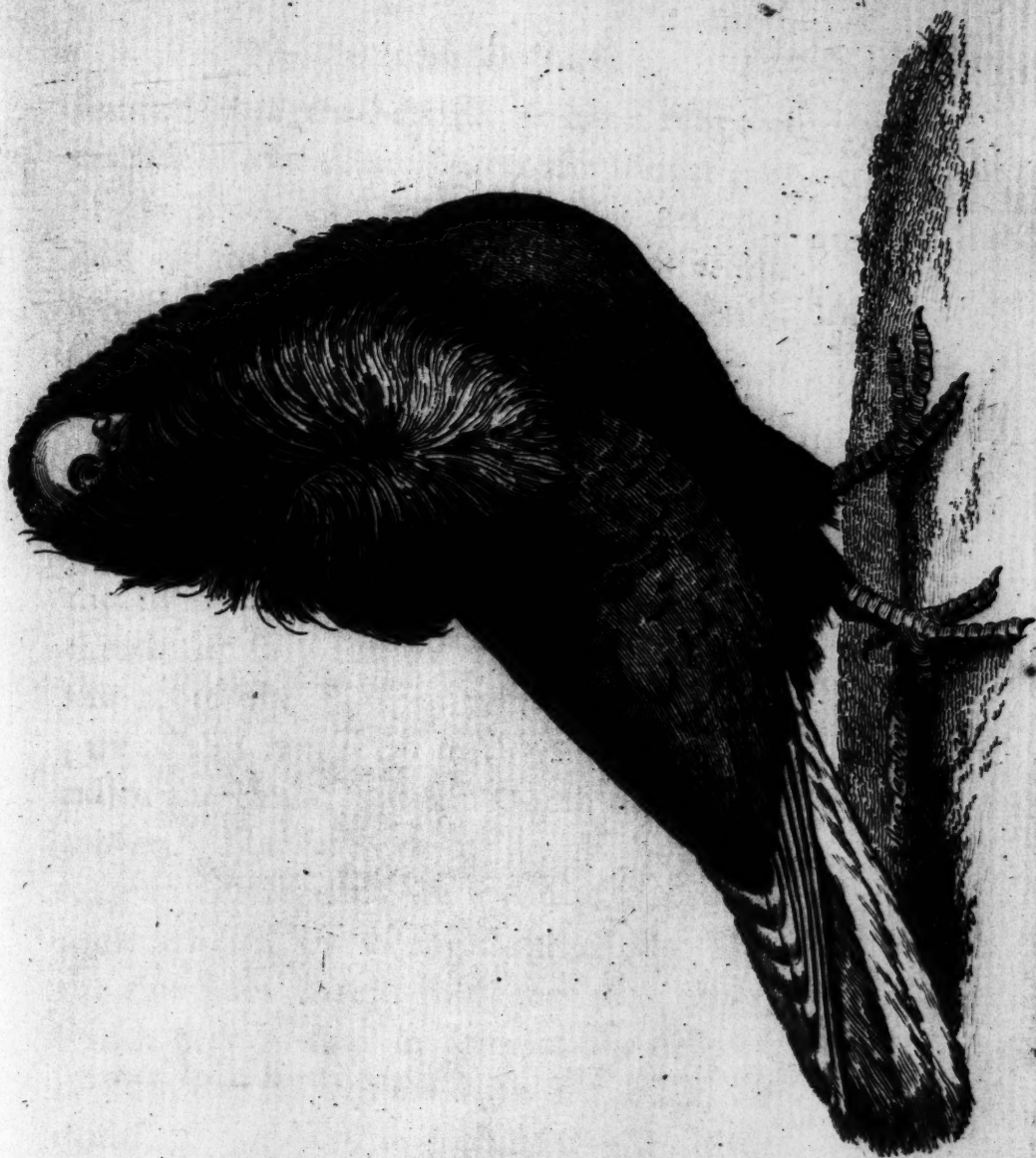
tlemen fanciers; and as I think the jacobine should have the preference of the toy kind, we shall in the next place describe that.





The Jacobine, or Jack.

THE Jacobine, or as it is more commonly called for shortness, the Jack, is a remarkably pleasing Bird; but it is very difficult to obtain any that are really good, the breed of them having suffered much in my opinion, in general, by a wrong method of propagating them, viz. that of intermixing the breed of the ruff with them; in order to improve their chain, by lengthening the feathers thereof, whereby the chain is considerably detrimented by being looser, and not so closely connected as it otherwise would have been, had the jack and the ruff been entirely kept separate; it has likewise caused the jack to be bred larger, a longer beak, and looser in its hood, than it was originally. For the true jack is a very small Bird, very little bigger than a tumbler, and the smaller





smaller it is the better. It has a range of feathers inverted quite over the hinder part of the head, and reaching down on each side of the neck to the shoulders of the wings, which forms a kind of hood, something like a Fryar's, from whence it takes the name of jacobine. The fathers of that order wearing hoods to cover their baldness. Therefore the upper part of this range of feathers is called the hood; and the more compact these feathers are, and the closer they are to the head, so much the more the Bird is valued: the lower part of this range of feathers is, with us, called the chain, but the Dutch call it the cravat. The feathers of which should be long and close, that were you to strain the neck a little, by taking hold of the bill, the two sides should fold over each other, which may be seen in some of the best.

The Pigeon dealers have a method of coaking the hood and chain of this Bird, (as the term is) which they perform by clipping the feathers at the back part of the head and neck, and continually stro-

king the hood and chain forwards, which makes them advance further than they otherwise would: and sometimes they cut a piece of skin out between the throat and the chest, and sew it up again, by which means the chain is drawn closer. It should have a very small head, with a quick rise, &c. and spindle beak, the shorter the better, like that of a tumbler, and a pearl eye. In regard to the feather, there are various coloured ones, such as reds, blues, mottled, blacks and yellows; the preference of which seems to be given to the last mentioned; but whatever colour they are of, they should have a clean white head, with a white flight and white tail; some of them have feathers on their legs and feet, others have none, and both sorts are equally esteemed according to the different inclinations of those who fancy them.

In France and Holland they have brought this species to much greater perfection than in England, for of late years they have been much neglected here, which I think

the

the greater pity, as they are by far the most pleasing of any of the toy Pigeons whatever. A very ingenious gentleman of my acquaintance, and an exceeding good fancier, as well as a great naturalist, being at Paris last summer, purchased two pairs of these Birds, and charged himself with the trouble and care of bringing them over to England, which he effected, in order to restore the true original breed of them, but was prevented in that by a cat getting into his loft, and thereby destroying them all.

The following being in itself so uncommon, and a fact, I cannot help taking notice of it: a person the other day passing through Fleet-street, seeing a print of this Bird at a shop window, stopped to make his observations thereon, and having well viewed it, he went in and purchased it, declaring to the seller, that he never saw a stronger likeness in his life; and as for the wig, it was exactly the same he always wore. For he imagined it altogether a caricatura of one of his intimate acquaint-



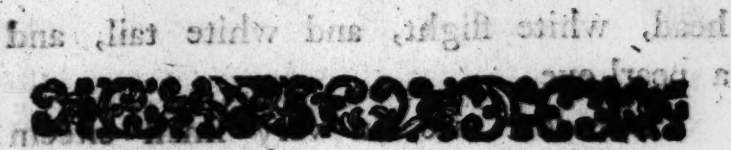
The Ruff.

THIS Pigeon in shape and make resembles a good deal the jacobine, in-
somuch that they have been frequently sold
for such to those who have not thoroughly
understood the properties belonging to the
jack.

The ruff, if attentively examined, will
be found larger than the jack, with a longer
beak, and a larger head. The irides of the
eyes in some are of a pearl colour, in others
of a gravel colour; the feathers of its hood
and chain much longer, though the chain
does not reach so low down to the shoul-
ders of the wings; neither are they near
so compleat and close as the others, but
are apt to blow about with every little
blast of wind, and to fall more backward
off the head, and lay in a rough confused
manner; whence the Pigeon has its name.

Their feather is also the same as that of the jack; so that it is not to be so much wondered at, that those who were unacquainted with the properties of the true original jack, should have a ruff imposed on them in its stead; but I hope we have sufficiently described the ruff to be worse than the jack in all its properties, so as to prevent future impositions of that kind.





The Capuchine.

THIS Pigeon, like the jack, is so called, from another set of hooded ecclesiastics.

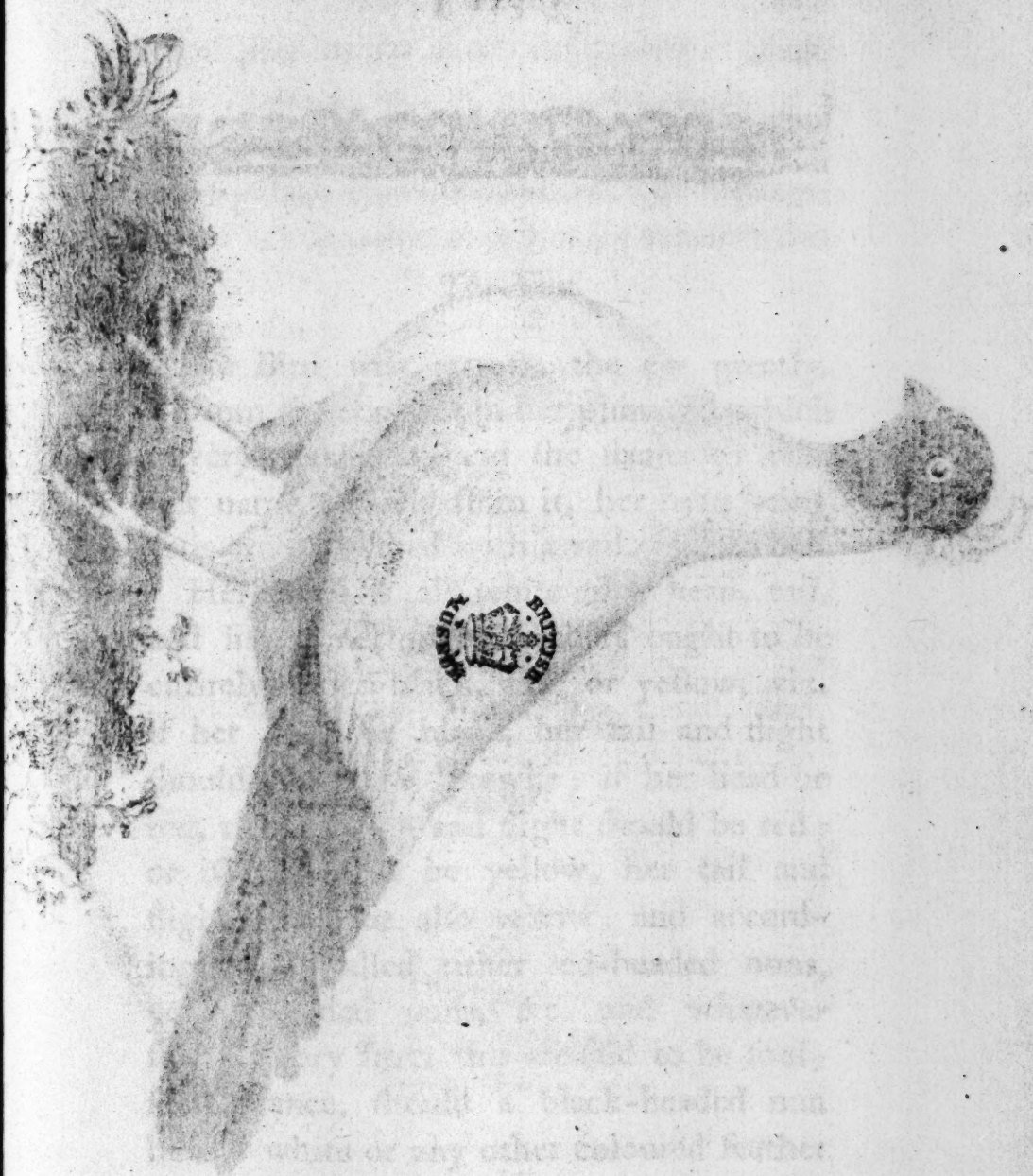
It is also thought by some to be a bastard breed from the jack, and others assert it to be a distinct species; but 'tis very certain, that a jack and another Pigeon will breed a Bird so like it, as will puzzle the authors of this assertion to distinguish it from what they call their separate species.

Its shape, make and size are much like those of the ruff, but rather larger; its beak being also nearly the same: it has a tolerable good hood, but no chain; its feather is various, being sometimes blue, red, yellow, mottled, black, &c. but should, like the jack, always have a clean white head,

head, white flight, and white tail, and a pearl eye.

These sort are in very small esteem amongst the fanciers, though each particular species have their admirers.





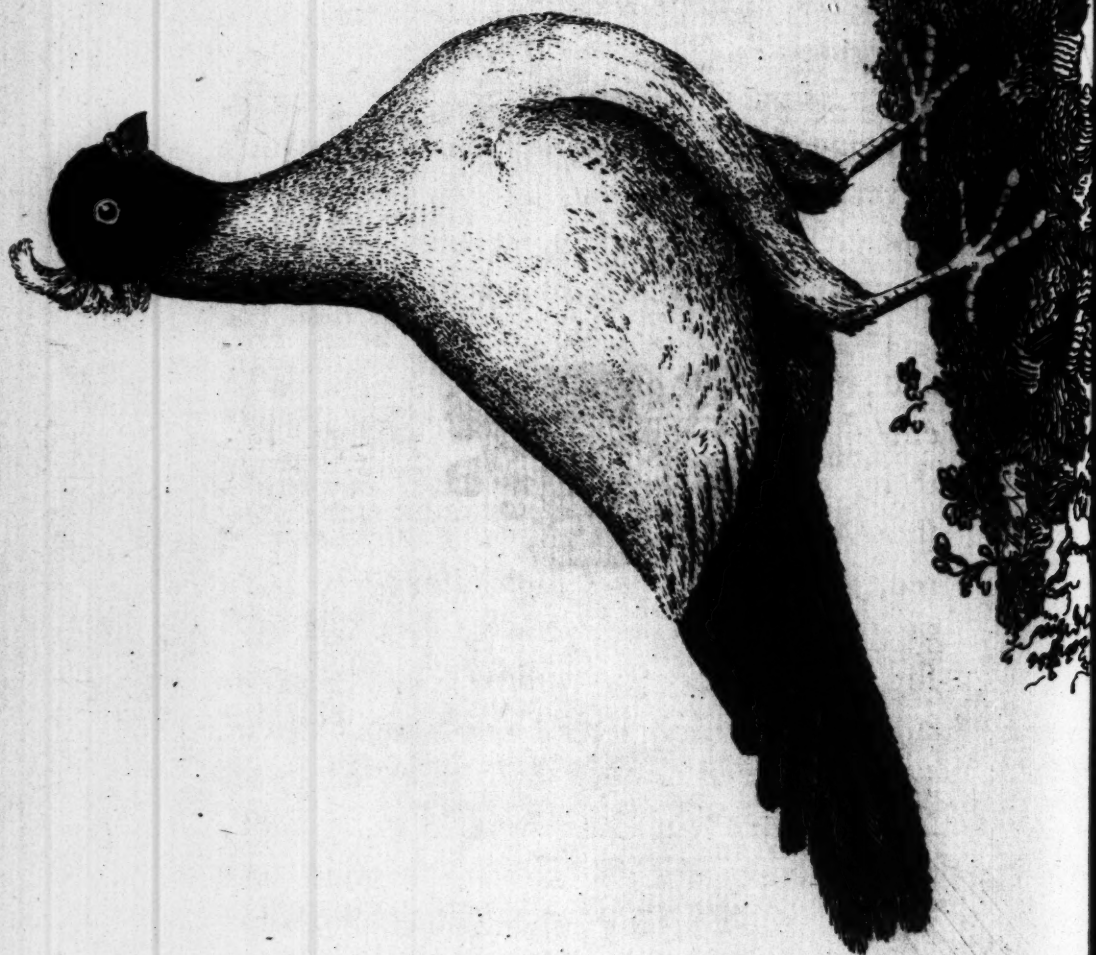
head, white Ruff, and white tail,

a small spot.

The bird is a very small one.

except the feathers, which are

color species have their plumage.





The Nun

IS a Bird that attracts the eye greatly, from the contrast in her plumage, which is very particular, and she seems to take her name entirely from it, her head being as it were covered with a veil.

Her body is all white; her head, tail, and six of her flight feathers ought to be entirely either black, red, or yellow, viz. if her head be black, her tail and flight should be black likewise; if her head be red, then her tail and flight should be red; or if her head be yellow, her tail and flight should be also yellow; and accordingly are called either red-headed nuns, yellow-headed nuns, &c. and whatever feathers vary from this are said to be foul; for instance, should a black-headed nun have a white or any other coloured feather in her head, except black, she would be called

called foul-headed; or a white feather in her flight, she would be foul-flighted, &c. and the same rule stands good in the red-headed or yellow-headed ones; though the best of them all will sometimes throw a few foul feathers, and those that are so but in a small degree, though not so much valued themselves, will often breed as clean feathered Birds as those that are not.

A nun ought likewise to have a pearl eye, with a small head and beak; and to have a white hood, or tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, which the larger it is, adds the more beauty to the Bird: her size much the same as the capuchine.









The Owl.

THIS Bird, from its pleasing, meek, and innocent aspect, I should have described immediately after the jacobine, it being, in my opinion, the next in point of beauty; but as Mr. Moore observes, 'tis pity to separate those venerable sons of the clergy and the female saints, therefore we have suffered them to follow each other for that reason only.

The owl is, according to Mr. Moore, a small Pigeon, very little larger than a jacobine, which might be their size in his time; but at present they are brought to such perfection, that they are hardly, if any thing, larger than a very small tumbler. Its beak is very short, and hooked over at the end like an owl's, from whence it takes its name, the shorter it is the better; it has

has a very round button head, and a gravel eye.

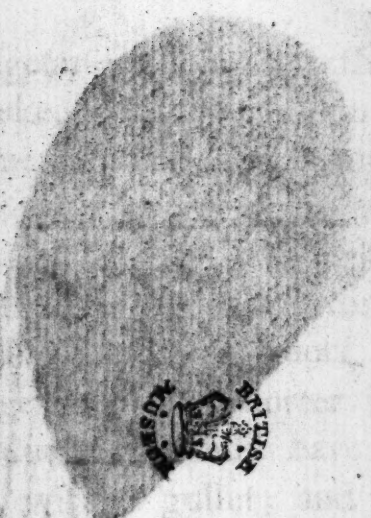
The feathers on the breast open, and reflect both ways, expanding itself something like a rose, which is called the purle by some, and by others the frill, and the more the Bird has of that the better, with a gullet reaching down from the beak to to the frill. Its plumage is always of one entire colour, as white, a fine sky-blue, black, and yellow, &c. except some that are chequered. The blue ones should have black bars cross the wings; and the lighter they are in colour, particularly in the hackle, the more they are valued.

These Birds should have their breeding places made so that they may sit in private, as mentioned under the head of building a loft, for they are very wild, like the carrier, and apt to fly off their eggs, if in the least disturbed.

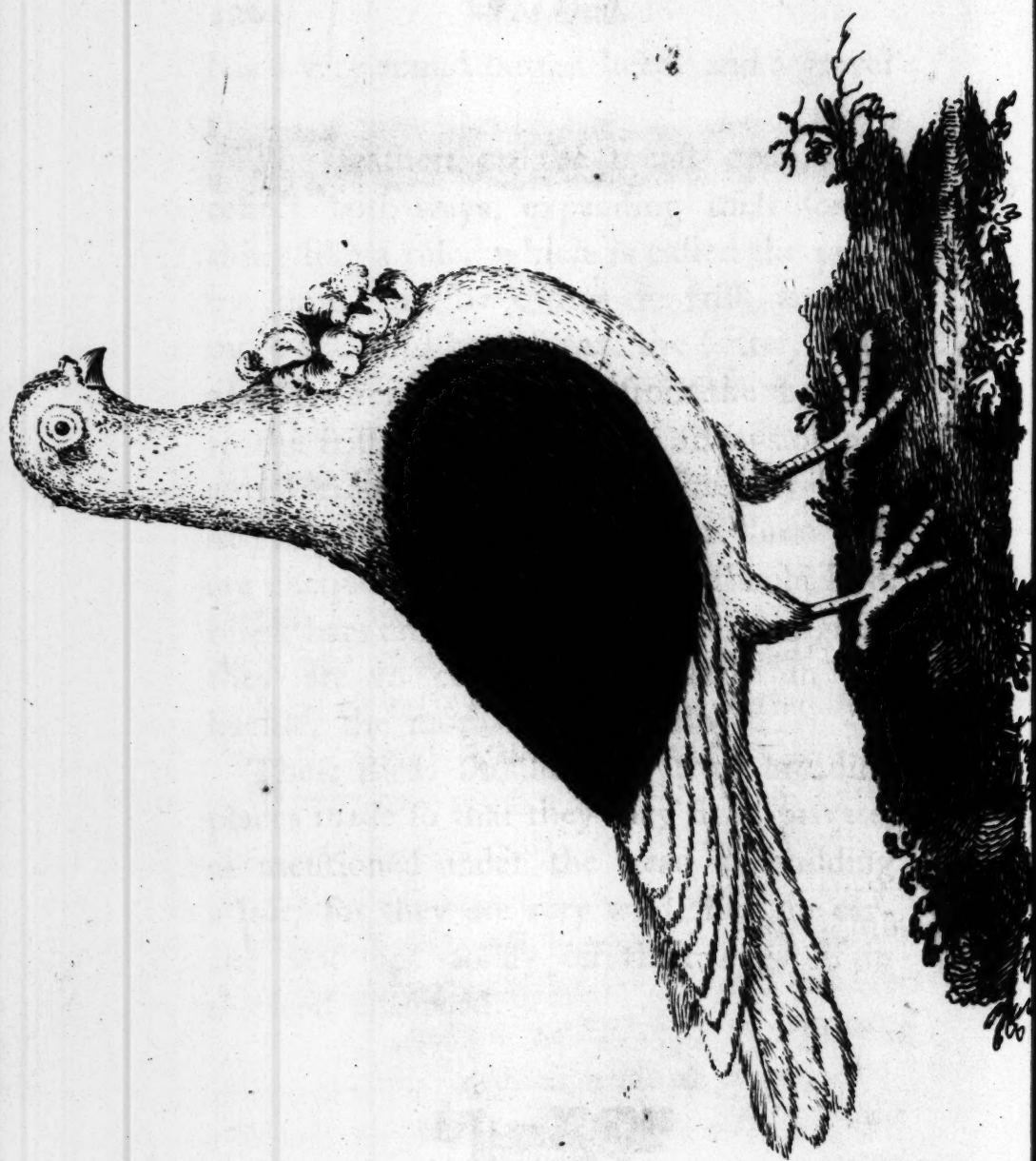


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The Turbit.

THIS Pigeon is called by the Dutch Cort-beke, or Short-bill, on account of the shortness of its beak; but how it came by the name of turbit I cannot take upon me to determine.

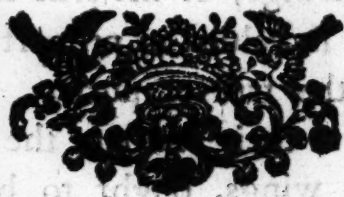
It is a small Pigeon, something larger than the owl; its beak is short like that of a partridge; and the shorter it is the more it is valued; it should have a round button head, with a gullet; and the feathers on the breast (like that of the owl) open, and reflect both ways, standing out almost like a fringe, or the frill of a shirt; and the Bird is valued in proportion to the goodness of the frill or purle.

In regard to their feather, the tail, and back of the wings, ought to be of one entire colour, as blue, black, dun, &c. the red and yellow ones excepted, whose

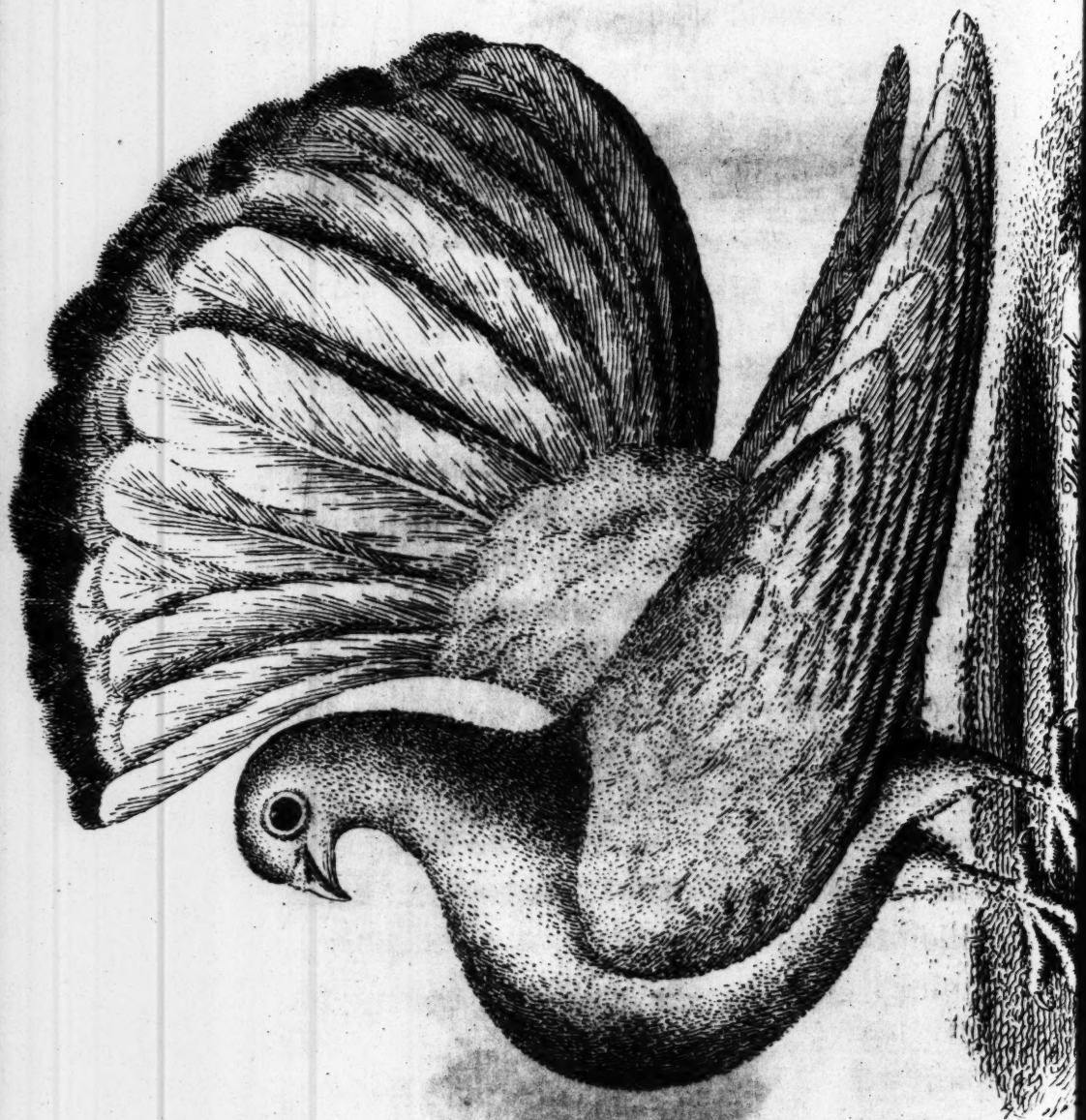
tails

tails should be white; and those that are blue should have black bars cross the wings; the flight feathers, and all the rest of the body should be white, and are called by the fanciers (according to the colour they are of) as black-shoulder'd, yellow-shoulder'd, blue-shoulder'd turbits, &c. They are a very pretty light Pigeon; and if used to fly when young, some of them make very good flyers. Mr. Moore says he has seen a flight of them, that were kept by one Girton, that would mount almost as high as tumblers.

There are some turbits all white, black, and blue, which by a mistake are often called and taken for owls.







The Peacock

and, like the tail of a turkey-cock, and throw it up so high that the head and tail



The Broad-tail'd Shaker.

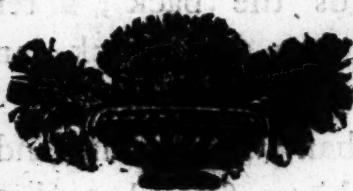
THIS Pigeon is by some called the broad-tail'd shaker, and by others the fan-tail.

The reason why it is called the broad-tail'd shaker is, on account of its having a frequent tremulous motion, or shaking in the neck, particularly when falacious, and in contradistinction to the narrow-tail'd shaker.

It has a beautiful long and thin neck, which bends like the neck of a swan, inclining towards the back ; a remarkable full chest, a ~~very short back~~, and a tail consisting of ~~a great number of~~ feathers, seldom less than ~~twenty four~~, and some of them have thirty six, (but that rarely) which they spread in a very elegant man-

ner, like the tail of a turkey-cock, and throw it up so high that the head and tail frequently meet, whence they are called fan-tails; but when they have such a large number of feathers, it is apt to make them lop their tails, and not permit it to meet with their head, which is a very great fault.

Their colour is most commonly all white, though there are black-pied, blue-pied, red-pied, and yellow-pieds, and some entire blue; but the white ones have generally the best carriage in their head and tail: there are two sorts of these broad-tail'd shakers, the one having a neck much longer and more slender than the other, but the longest neck is esteemed the most beautiful.





The Narrow-tail'd Shaker

IS by many thought a distinct species, and by others only a bastard breed between the broad-tail'd shaker and some other Pigeon: it hath a shorter neck and thicker than the broad-tail'd shaker, with a longer back: the feathers of the tail are not so much expanded, but fall in a manner double, the one side laying over the other, and the tail generally droops very much.

Its feather varies as the former, but are generally white; though I have seen an almond of this sort, which was purchased by a certain nobleman.





The Spot.

THIS Pigeon is about the size of a small runt, and was brought hither from Holland; but whether it was originally bred there or not I cannot determine.

They have a spot upon their heads, just above their beaks, from which they take their name; the feathers of the tail are of the same colour as the spot, and the rest of their body all white: the spot and tail in some of them are black, in others red, in others yellow; and I have heard there are some blue: they look very pretty when they spread their tail and fly; and always breed their young ones of the same colour.



The



The Laugher

IS about the size of a middling runt, and much of the same make, and has a very bright pearl eye, almost white; their feather is chiefly red-mottled; and I have heard of some that were blue: they are said to come from the Holy Land near Jerusalem. When the cock plays to the hen, he has a hoarse coo, not unlike the guggling of a bottle of water, when poured out, and then makes a noise which very much imitates a soft laughter; and from thence it has its name.

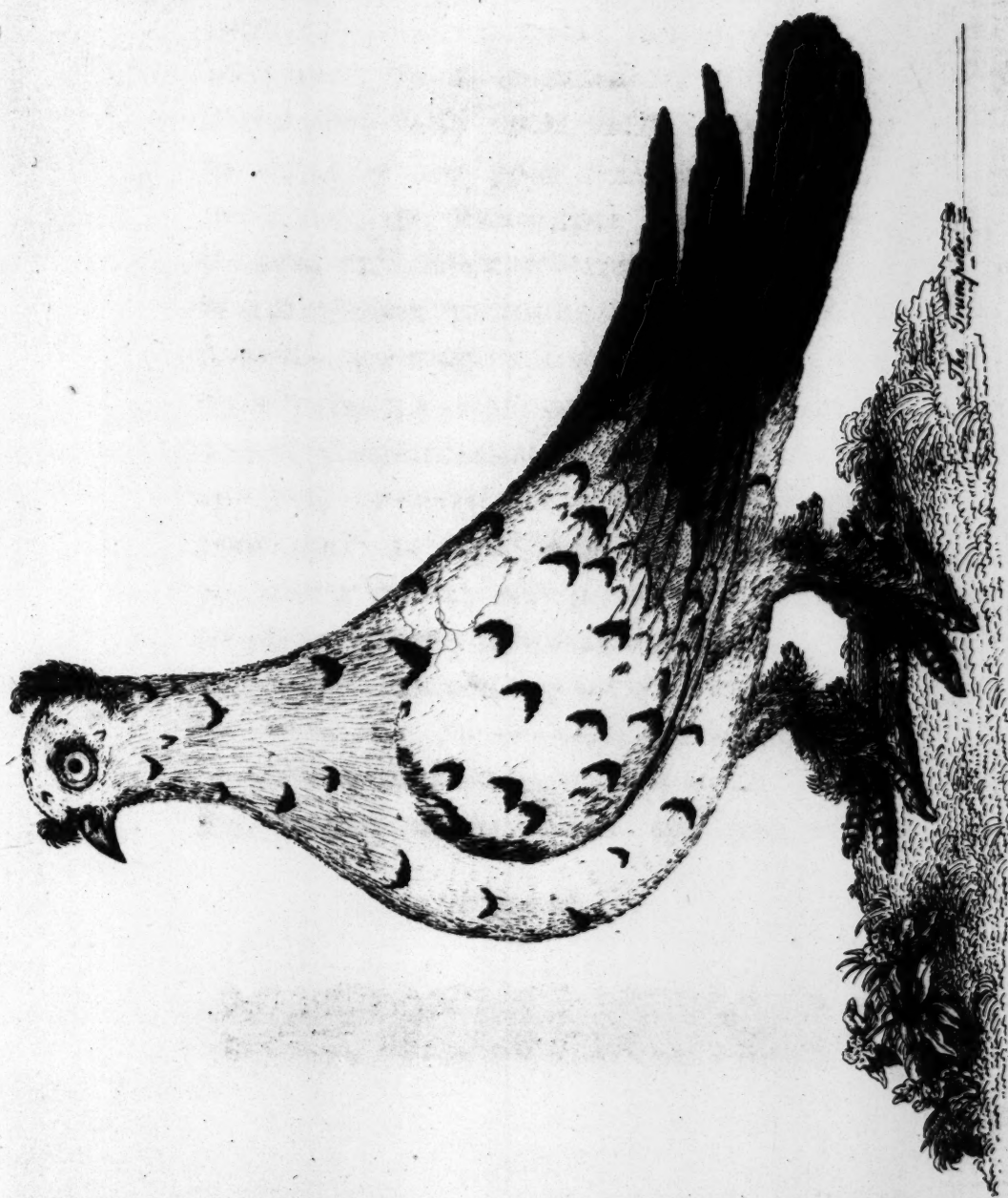




The Trumpeter.

IS a Bird much about the size of a laughner, and very runtishly made ; they are generally pearl-ey'd, black-mottled, very feather-footed and leg'd, turn-crown'd like the nun, and sometimes like a finnikin, but much larger, which are reckoned the better sort, as being more melodious ; but the best characteristic to know them, is a tuft of feathers growing at the root of the beak ; and the larger this tuft is, the more they are esteemed : the reason of their name is from their imitating the sound of a trumpet after playing ; the more salacious they are, the more they will trumpet ; therefore if you have a mind to be often entertained with their melody, you must give them plenty of hemp-seed, otherwise they will seldom trumpet much, except in the spring, when they are naturally more salacious than usual.

The



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The Helmet

IS much about the size of a nun, or somewhat bigger: the head, tail, and flight feathers of the wings, are always of one colour, as black, red, yellow; and I believe there are some blue, and all the rest of the body white; so that the chief difference between them and a nun is, that they have no hood on the hinder part of the head, and are commonly gravel-ey'd.

They are called helmets from their heads being covered with a plumage which is distinct in colour from the body, and appears somewhat like an helmet to cover the head.





The Finnikin.

THESE Pigeons are possessed of certain whimsical gestures when falacious, viz. it rises over its hen, and turns round three or four times, flapping its wings, then reverses, and turns as many the other way; for which reason some people disapprove of this sort, as being apt to vitiate their own strains by making a hen squat by these gestures, but in fact are no more to be feared in that respect than any other breed when falacious.

They are in shape and make not unlike a common runt, and nearly the same size; the crown of its head is turned in the manner of a snake's head; it has a gravel eye, and a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the crown, which runs down its neck something like a horse's mane; it has no feathers on its legs or feet, and the feather is always black or blue-pied.

The

THE TURNER

The Turner

IS (except having a tuft on the hinder part of the head, and not being snake-headed) in many respects like the finnikin, though when falacious and playing to the hen, it turns only one way, whereas the finnikin turns both. It is of a runtish make, and has a gravel eye,



The



The Barb, or Barbary Pigeon.

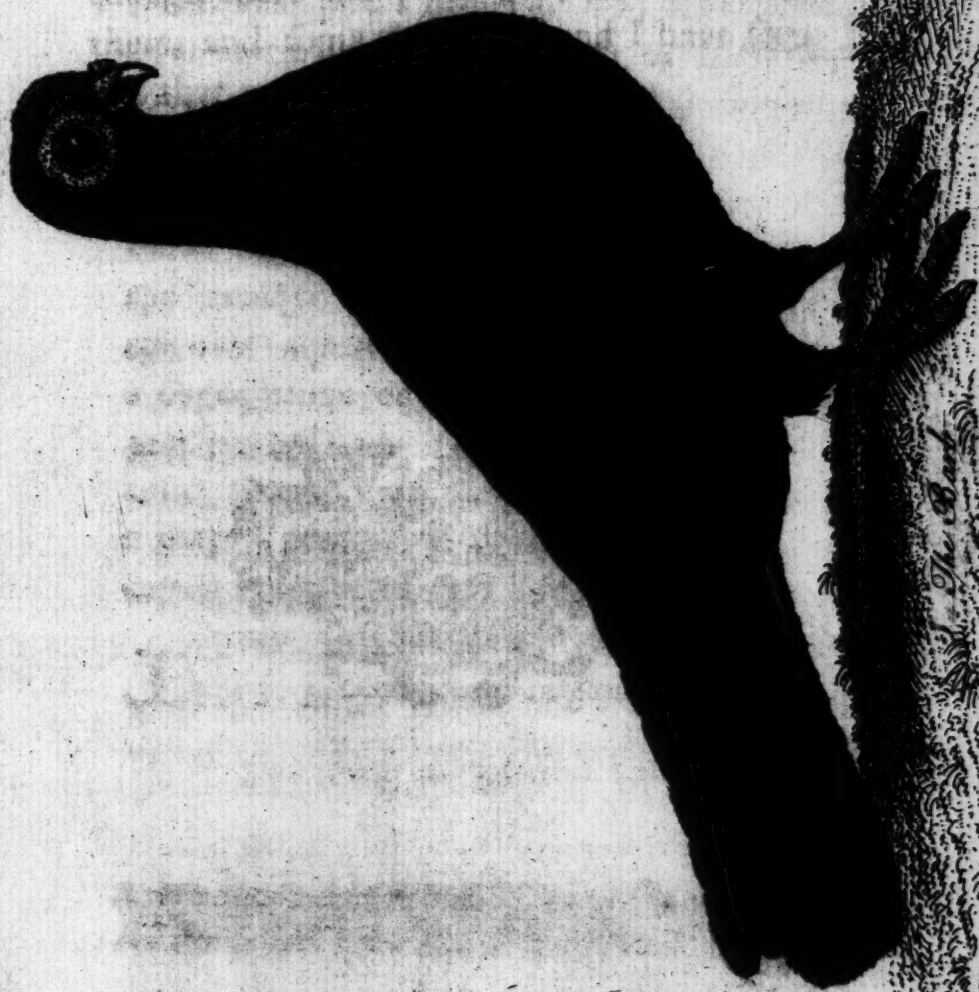
THIS Pigeon was originally brought from Barbary, and for that reason called the Barbary Pigeon, or for shortness a barb. It is in size less than a common runt, should have a very short beak like a bull-finch, with a very small wattle, and a naked circle of tuberos red flesh round the eyes, whose irides are of a pearl colour; the broader and redder this flesh is, the more valuable the Bird, though it is very narrow when the Bird is young, and does not come to its full growth till they are four years old; some of them have a tuft of feathers on the hinder part of the head, something like a finnikin, and others have not; the body of it rather long than otherwise.

Mr. Willoughby, in describing this Bird, is greatly mistaken, where he imagines the tuberos

The North American Pigeon. 139

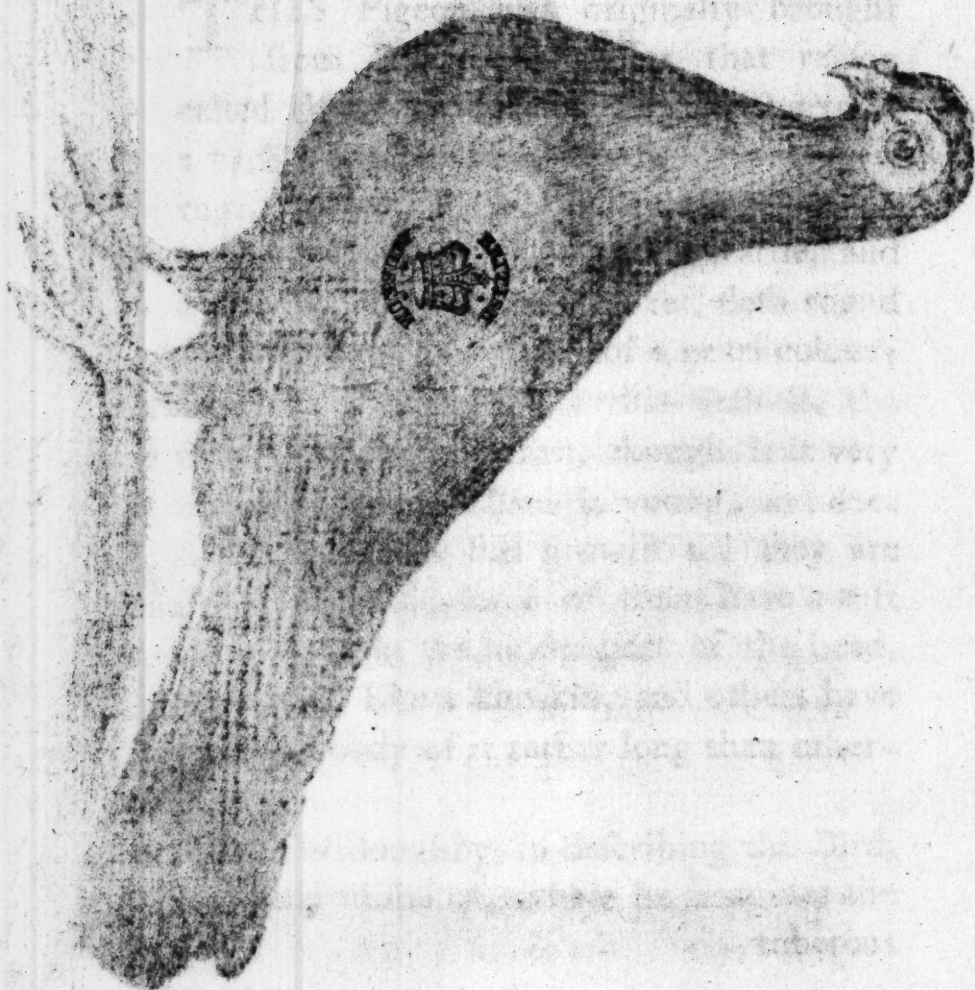
This species is the most common of the
of the state, which never is the case, and
is still more common than the other two,
and when it occurs it is always in great numbers.

It is found in the most remote parts of the
country, and is the most common of the
state, and is the most common of the state.



The Bird

1838



The Barb, or Barbary Pigeon. 139

tuberos flesh to be white in some Birds of this kind, which never is the case, tho' it will grow paler when the Bird is sick, and when it recovers always reassumes its wonted redness.

Their feather is chiefly black or dun; though there are peds of both these feathers, and some splash'd; and I have seen one that was an almond,



The



The Mahomet.

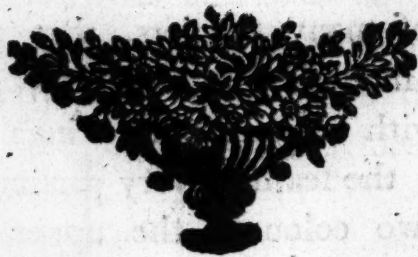
MR. Moore, in his columbarium, says this Bird is no more in reality than a white barb, which makes the red tuberos flesh round the eyes look very beautiful; and further adds, that the reason why it was so called, was, that Mahomet, the impostor prophet of the Turkish religion, and author of the Alcoran, is reputed by some authors, and those of good note, as Scaliger, Grotius, and Sionita, to have made use of the following stratagem to induce the credulous Arabians to believe that he conversed frequently with the holy spirit, and received from him his mission as a prophet, and the new doctrines he was about to broach.

This imposture he carried on in this manner: he took a young Pigeon of this kind which we are now describing, and which, by the immaculate whiteness of its plumage,

plumage, was not an improper emblem of purity, and the celestial dove; this Bird he brought up by hand, and made it very tame and familiar, till at last he taught it to eat meat out of his ear, which he might easily do, especially if he fed it with rape or hemp-seed there, which all Pigeons are very fond of, till at last the Pigeon would come frequently to search for its food there. This Bird he imposed upon the Arabians to be the Holy Ghost, whispering the dictates of the Almighty, and teaching him the precepts of his new law; and from hence this Bird is called after him by the name of Mahomet; so far Mr. Moore: and I think he has extremely well accounted for its being so called; but it is the opinion of many fanciers, that the Bird called a mahomet is nearly of a cream colour, with bars cross the wings as black as ebony, the feathers very particular, being of two colours: the upper part, or surface of them, appearing of a cream, and underneath a kind of sooty colour, nearly approaching to black; as are likewise the flue-feathers, and even the skin, which I
never

never observed in any other Pigeons but these: its size much like that of a turbit, with a fine gullet, and in lieu of a frill; the feathers rather appear like a seam; the head is short, and inclined to be thick; hath an orange-eye, and a small naked circle of black flesh round the same; and a beak something resembling that of a bullfinch, with a small black wattle on it.

I must confess I rather think this Bird a mixt strain, between a turbit and some other Pigeon.









The Lace Pigeon.

THIS Bird is, I believe, originally bred in Holland, where I am informed there are great numbers of them; tho' not one that I know of to be seen in England at present: it is in size rather less than a common runt, and like it in shape and make; though I once saw a shaker of this kind: their colour is white, and they are valued on account of their scarcity, and the peculiarity of their feathers; the fibres, or web of which, appear disunited from each other throughout their whole plumage, and not in the least connected, as in common with all other Pigeons, where they form a smooth close feather; but in order to convey a true idea of this very singular Bird, I beg leave to refer the reader to the cut annexed.

The



The Frill-back

IS something less in size than a dragoon, and in shape like the common runt; their colour generally (if not always) white; and what is chiefly remarkable in them is, the turn of their feathers, which appear as if every one distinctly had been raised at the extremity with a small round pointed instrument, in such manner as to form a small cavity in each of them.

F I N I S.



